Homegrown pot registry cards out. PAGE 2
Legislator seeks to secure free internet for students. PAGE 5

75¢

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 166

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Guam: One more death, plus 105 additional cases

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 20, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	599	105	704
Recovered	363	18	381
Active	231	105	336
Deaths	5	1	6
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			30,857

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	54	0	54
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,920*

*Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam saw its sixth COVID-19 death yesterday, in addition to 105 new positive cases—its highest one-day spike so far.

According to a statement from the Joint Information Center, the newest fatality in Guam is a 70-year-old male who was taken to the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority at approximately 5:14am yesterday and was pronounced dead on arrival.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

"He was not a known COVID-19 case; however, he was

See DEATH on Page 4

PSS: Enrollees now at 6K-plus

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 6,000 students have enrolled for the Public School System's new school year and PSS expects a few thousand more to enroll before the resumption of classes on Sept. 8.

Lynette Villagomez, PSS associate commissioner of Accountability, said she is confident that parents will continue to work with PSS in registering their children for the upcoming school year.

See PSS on Page 4

FINANCE FILES TAX LIEN VS IPI

IPI allegedly fails to pay $9.4M tax

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Revenue and Taxation of the Department of Finance filed yesterday a tax lien against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC

See IPI on Page 4

PROJECT HALIGI

Many power poles along Beach Road are painted with island images as part of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's Project Haligi 2020: Canvas of Hope. Visit the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's social media @ladydianntorres to find out how to register to paint your pole. Artists will receive a stipend for their contribution in helping the foundation spread hope throughout the CNMI.

KRIZEL TUAZON

NMTI Sept. opening still tentative

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The planned reopening of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in September remains tentative as it still has no funding, and has only been allotted a token $1 from the general fund, which means that they will be able to get funding only when it's available.

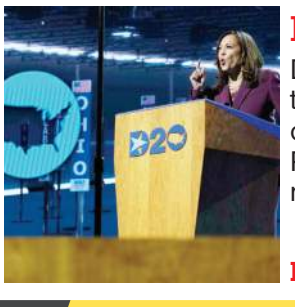
At the same time, Agnes McPhetres, NMTI chief executive of-

See NMTI on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Pacific Source opens a second location in the more central location of Garapan.

PAGE 14



NATION
Democrats pound their message at convention: To oust President Trump, you must vote.

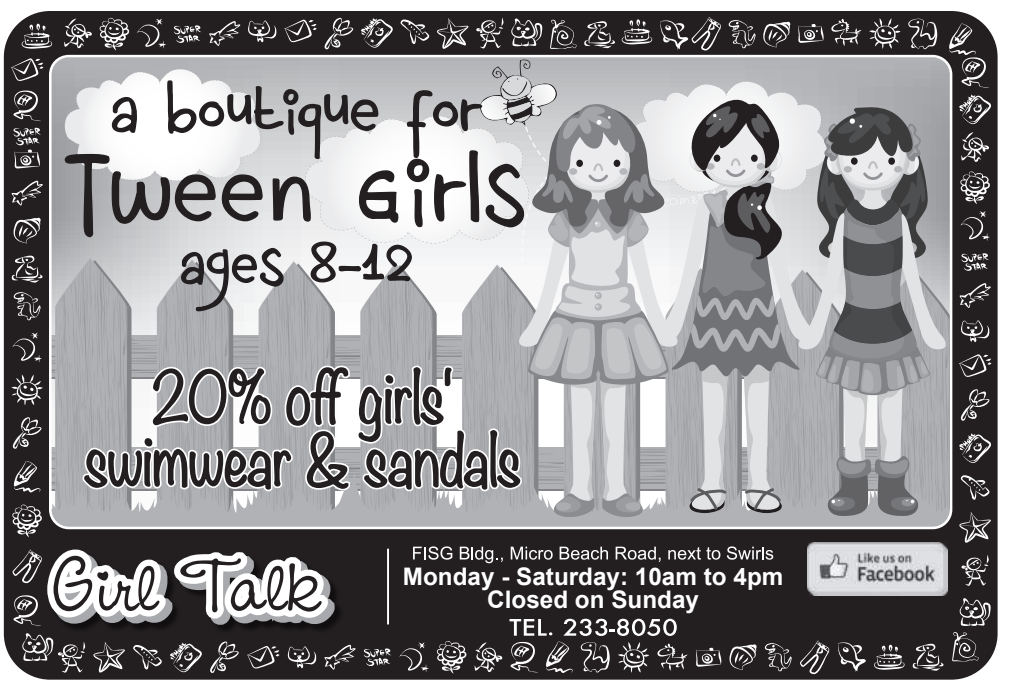
PAGE 15

ASIA
South Korean health workers have found more than 600 coronavirus infections linked to a church.

PAGE 16

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



Local

Homegrown pot registry cards out

The CNMI Cannabis Commission has issued out the first batch of Homegrown Marijuana Registry cards to individuals whose applications have fulfilled the necessary requirements and are compliant with the Cannabis Act and commission rules and regulations.

"We recognize that for years the local legalization of cannabis has been a long-sought goal for individuals in the Commonwealth. With the signing of the Cannabis Act and the establishment of the commission, this goal became a reality," said CNMI Cannabis Commission managing director Monique Sablan. "Seeing individuals take the initiative to embrace this newly instated privilege while also accepting its prohibitions will drive the overall success and safety of this industry."

She said registrants and cardholders are legitimately and legally allowed to cultivate marijuana for non-commercial use as long as they are compliant with the laws and regulations. "It's an accomplishment to see individuals actively applying for this opportunity lawfully," added Sablan. "The commission looks forward to seeing more applications and is ready to answer any…questions in regards to applying for the registry."

Since the opening of the registry on Aug. 4, 2020, individuals within the Commonwealth who are 21 years of age and older are mandated by law to register under the Homegrown Marijuana Registry and obtain a registry card in order to legally produce, process, keep, or store homegrown marijuana at a household or cultivation site for non-commercial purposes.

The commission encourages eligible applicants who are interested or have been engaging in the cultivation of marijuana for non-commercial purposes to register. The application fee is $75 per person and applicants must pay the fee prior to submitting the application. The Homegrown Marijuana Registry card shall be renewable annually. By law, all records of each homegrown marijuana registrant will be strictly confidential and the commission is taking the necessary steps to ensure confidentiality.

The commission has partnered with law enforcement agencies—Department of Public Safety, Division of Customs, and Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control—to establish the Cannabis Task Force, which will aid in the enforcement of the Cannabis Act and regulations. Individuals found in violation of the Cannabis Act may be punishable by civil or criminal penalties such as fines, seizure of marijuana items, or imprisonment.

Submitting your application

Applicants applying on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can submit their completed Homegrown Marijuana Registry application with official payment certification and receipt of payment at the following locations from Tuesday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm:

Saipan Applicants:

Division of Permitting and Licensing

Commonwealth Casino Commission

Unit 13 and 14F Springs Plaza

Gualo Rai, Saipan

See HOMEGROWN on Page 4

Commercial pot industry hampered by zoning

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The "lengthy" process of acquiring a conditional use permit could hinder the commercial pot industry from booming in the CNMI.

Commonwealth Cannabis Commission managing director Monique Sablan said at the Senate Committee on Cannabis and Gaming meeting Wednesday that zoning for Saipan is one of the roadblocks that are hindering cannabis licensees from submitting a complete application.

"Saipan Local Law 21-15, passed in June of 2020, specifies cannabis farms, retails, and lounge, but it puts those cannabis licenses under a conditional use permit, and the conditional use permit is actually a very lengthy process in order to actually get that permit," she said. "It requires an application on various documentation to be submitted, [and] requires the applicant, prior to even applying for a cannabis license, to go through a public hearing with Zoning, appear before the board, and their board would have to approve whether or not they will get the Zoning authorization." That authorization is key, Sablan said, for a cannabis licensee to actually submit their complete application to the commission and get a business license.

"That's one of the main obstacles that we've been going through. ...They [CNMI Zoning Board] do have a backlog for their public hearing. They only have about five slots per public hearing, and they only meet once a month," she added.

The commission, however, has been in communication with the Zoning Board to work on the concern.

In addition, the local law, Sablan said, is "very broad" as it generalizes cannabis farming, in comparison to the regulations set by the commission where production is broken down into four different licenses: micro producer, Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3. Class 3 goes to about 5,000 square feet. "There should be necessary guidelines for at least each of these various licensees."

Sablan also said that currently, they are working with their applicants to figure out solutions. The commission rolled out three homegrown registry applications Tuesday, while commercial applications remain incomplete due to zoning issues.

7 ex-workers demanding from IPI $795,341 in attorneys' fees

Seven China-based former workers of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC are seeking payment of $795,341 in attorneys' fees plus $16,877 in court costs in response to the federal court's order in connection with a default judgment to be entered against IPI.

The former workers' petition, which was filed in the District Court last Tuesday, seeks a fee award of $795,341 for the work of their four attorneys, one paralegal, and four full-time law student interns.

In their separate petition for damages filed in court, the former workers are seeking a total of $11.58 million in compensatory damages against IPI.

With respect to attorneys' fee, the bulk of the amount will go to New York-based lawyer Aaron Halegua, who claimed $549,440 for the 1,373.60 hours he spent at $400 per hour rate.

The plaintiffs' Saipan-based lawyer, Bruce Berline, is demanding $40,740 for 135.80 hours at $300 per hour rate. Attorney Ben Petersburg, a former partner at Berline's law firm, asked for $6,600 for 33.30 hours at $200 an hour rate.

Another New York lawyer, Times Wang, asks to be paid $36,516 for 91.29 hours at $400 an hour rate.

Paralegal Jacob Kessler is demanding $49,790 for 398.32 hours at $125 an hour rate. At $160 an hour, four full-time law student interns also asked for payment—Zach de Stefan at $36,7755 for 229.72 hours; Yun Zhang at $42,459 for 265.37 hours; Yiwen Zhang at $24,881 for 155.51 hours; and Lulu Sun at $8,099 for 50.62 hours.

Halegua said the plaintiffs, who've obtained a default judgment, are prevailing parties and thus entitled to attorneys' fees under the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act.

The plaintiffs are suing IPI for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

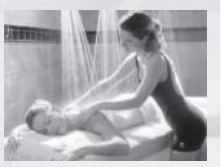
IPI and its subcontractor, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., and MCC's subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, have denied the plaintiffs' allegations.

Halegua said they expended considerable time and resources in litigating this case against IPI to its current position. He said IPI's constant roadblocks and obstructionist behavior further increased the work that the plaintiffs needed to perform.

Halegua said that he took primary responsibility for most of the tasks in the litigation soon after getting involved in the case. He said the four law student interns primarily engaged in performing legal research, reviewing and analyzing relevant discovery produced by IPI, tracking and documenting IPI's non-compliance with the court's orders, interviewing the seven plaintiffs to prepare their declarations on damages, arranging exhibits and translating them into English, proofreading and cite-checking court filings, and preparation of this fee petition.

He noted, among other things, that in exercise of billing judgment, plaintiffs are not requesting fees for the hundreds of hours expended by law students, attorneys, and others on this case.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Quingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC and Gold Mantis over the alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the worksite of IPI's resort/casino project in Garapan. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

HANA
HEALTH MASSAGE
SERVICES OFFERED

▪ Oil Massage
▪ Foot Massage Scrub
▪ Foot Massage (with medicine)
▪ Table Shower & Body Scrub Spa
▪ Cupping Therapy (Suction cup massage for back pain)
SPECIAL PROMO
· 60 minutes Regular Massage (10:00 am - 4:00 pm only) $20
Locations: ▪ Across Kanoa Resort, besides Equitable Insurance
▪ MSV Building, Chalan Kanoa across Moonlight
10:00AM TO 11:00PM • MOBILE: 789-7778

THE GOAL MUST BE ZERO ACCIDENTS
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Have Medicaid Dental Insurance?
▪ We would love to see you! No long waits, and Walk-ins always welcome. **Kind & Gentle Team!**
▪ We treat our patients like family. Join us for a cup of coffee today. Best AirCon and free Wi-Fi!
▪ **Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), StayWell, TakeCare, CIGNA & Calvos insurances also accepted!**
AWARD-WINNING DENTISTS
DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE

Paradise Dental Spa
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
234-4040
paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com

McTERI® DELUXE Extra Value Meal®

Available for a limited time only.
Baked Strawberry and Creme Pie
Available for a limited time only.
Order in the App, pass the line with a tap
Three easy steps to order through the McDonald's App
Download the McDonald's App GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store
Order on your time
Use our App to pick out your favorite McDonald's items a la carte or make a meal.
Pay
Pay using any major payment card. Your card will not be charged until you check in.
Pick up on your terms
Check in at any participating McDonald's restaurant to pick up your meal however you want—get your food brought to you Curbside, avoid the line Inside the Restaurant or grab it in the Drive Thru.
MOBILE ORDER & PAY
STORE HOURS: MIDDLE ROAD STORE - 6:30AM TO 10:00PM DAILY • GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:00AM TO 12:00 MIDNIGHT DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

Democrats pledge change

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
limberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is rallying around a promise of "change" for the people of the CNMI if they are voted into office come November.

In a news briefing the party hosted yesterday for its candidates at its headquarters at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan, Leila Staffler, who is running for a seat in the House of Representatives for Precinct 5, said the pledge is a collaboration among the Democratic leadership, members, and candidates to build a consensus on the values and principles that the party believes elected officials should stand by.

"We will hold ourselves and our colleagues to the highest ethical standards, and will abide faithfully by the oath of office and the CNMI government ethics code. This is the beginning of our pledge because it sets the standard of the principles that will come next," Staffler said.

Rep. Tina Sablan, who is running for reelection, said the pledge represents the commitments that each individual makes as Democratic candidates to the people that they hope to represent in public office.

"There are several parts of this pledge that are near and dear to my heart, and they're simple, but also really critical to the work in the Legislature. One is that we will diligently attend and participate in legislative sessions and committee meetings, taking the word of the people seriously and showing up and being willing to listen. And the next part of this pledge is to collaborate with each other and also reaching across the aisle in the performance of our duty, including drafting, sponsoring, reviewing, deliberating and deciding on legislation that puts the people of the Commonwealth first, above all special interests," she said.

The Democrats also pledged to support legislative rules that require all members to maintain records and publish quarterly reports of their expenditures.

The party also pledges to regularly report to the people and welcome their feedback through community outreach and engagement, including public hearings, town hall meetings, and social media.

As part of their pledge, the party said they'd ensure that public funds are only spent for public purposes, work to improve fiscal responsibility, performance, and efficiency of the government.

In addition, the party includes in its pledge to limit travel only to vitally important government purposes and report to the people after the travel is performed.

Also, the Democratic Party said it wants to develop a diverse and sustainable economy, support fairness, transparency, and accountability in government, support locally owned small businesses, strengthen personnel service system to ensure fairness, and support increased investments in the CNMI's health care system.

Sablan and Staffler said the pledge may just be mere words but the party promises to turn these words into action.

Also present during the briefing and running for the Democratic Party is Antonio Blas Cabrera for a seat in the House of representatives for Precinct 1, Corina Magofna for Precinct 3, Richard Lizama for Precinct 5, and Denita Yangetmai for Precinct 3.

DEATH

From Page 1

swabbed at GMHA and his results came back positive and the fatality will be counted in Guam's overall COVID-19 case count. The patient had no travel history," the JIC statement added.

In a video message of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero that was widely circulated on social media, she said: "Today, with great sadness and difficulty, I must announce we have lost another person to this virus. Reporting deaths is never easy, but we can easily forget that the numbers we report represent real people. We grieve for him and all the lives we lost in this battle. I have personally reached out to his family to offer our deepest condolences and sympathies on behalf of Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio] and the entire island community."

As for the 105 new cases of COVID-19 that were confirmed by the Guam Department of Public Health & Social Services, Leon Guerrero said, "This by far represented the largest cases in a day since the start of this pandemic." She added that 28% of the cases that were reported in Guam were recorded within the last couples of weeks and anticipates that 20% of the cases will end up in the hospital, which will push Guam hospitals to full capacity.

Leon Guerrero urged Guam residents that they cannot become "comfortable" nor "surrender to complacency."

"We are not invincible. No matter how young and healthy you are, you are still at risk and you are putting others at risk too," said Leon Guerrero.

Guam returned to full lockdown this week and additional measures are being implemented effective 12pm of today, Aug. 21, for one week, durig which all businesses will be closed with the exception of grocery stores, health care operations, including pharmacies, gas stations, convenience stores, hardware stores, and those operations critical to health, shelter, and the preservation of life.

"It is my hope that this escalation will last only a week, just long enough to flatten our rising curve," said Leon Guerrero.

In this frame grab from a video message of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, she said: "Today, with great sadness and difficulty, I must announce we have lost another person to this virus."
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

IPI

From Page 1

in federal court for allegedly failing to pay $9,416,887 in Business Gross Revenue Tax for tax period in 2017 to 2019.

As press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting IPI's comments.

According to the notice of tax lien filed by Richard Santos, Revenue and Taxation Collection & Remittance Branch manager, this liability remains unpaid despite a demand for payment.

"Therefore, there is a lien in favor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on all property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer for the amount of these taxes and any additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," said Santos in the notice.

According to the notice, for the tax period that ended on Dec. 31, 2017, the unpaid balance is $3,289,333. For the tax period that ended on Dec. 31, 2018, the unpaid balance is $2,064,036. For the tax period that ended on Dec. 31, 2019, the unpaid balance is $2,013,024 and $2,050,462. For the tax period that ended on April 6, 2020, and assessed on that same day, there is a returned check penalty in the amount of $25. No other details were provided.

Last Wednesday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres notified IPI that the CNMI government intends to suspend or revoke IPI's exclusive casino license, in response to IPI chief executive officer Donald R. Browne's letter last Aug. 11 that IPI would not be able to pay the $15.5 million annual license fee by the Aug. 12 deadline.

Browne also asked for an abatement of the casino license fee for the year 2020, citing Section 25 of the Casino License Agreement and because of the worldwide pandemic.

Browne also proposes that payment of the $3 million to support the operations of Commonwealth Casino Commission that IPI must pay by this October be delayed until 30 days before the scheduled reopening of IPI's casino in Garapan.

NMTI

From Page 1

ficer, said at the budget hearing of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs that, despite an earlier recommendation by the NMTI board of trustees not to furlough four people at NMTI, everybody still got furloughed since there were no funds coming in. Still, McPhetres said, NMTI's staff have still been coming in to volunteer and prepare for the upcoming semester—should there be one.

NMTI had hoped to obtain funds from a portion of the fees that CNMI employers pay when they petition a foreign worker—called CW funds—but McPhetres said she found out a month ago that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente to be the expenditure authority over that funding, which McPhetres said she was not "made aware of that actio" and failed to bring it up with Benavente.

"I will meet with Vicky again [and see] if she could give us $200,000. … We're preparing everything, people are volunteering, coming to work, just to get things moving. …As soon as we have the money, we may have to give at least two weeks for the instructor to get themselves ready," said McPhetres.

As for when the school will be opening, McPhetres said that, until they get any money from Benavente, that's only when they can definitively state when NMTI will be up and running. Additionally, she said that they are still taking applications from students, but advising them that they are not sure when NMTI will open back up.

As for the $1 budget that the NMTI has, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), says that he's "pretty sure" that the Senate will "put more in there."

PSS

From Page 1

"We have over 6,000 students who have registered already and so we have a few more thousand to go, but we are confident that our parents will take the time to reenroll or register their new child," she said.

Villagomez said some changes had to be made this year, the biggest change being the online registration and PSS no longer accepting paper-based enrollment.

"Reimagining how life is going to be like during this pandemic, we needed to make some changes that will ensure the safety of our families and our community. So with that, we had to reimagine how student registration is going to take place in order to provide safety precautions for families. And so we quickly transitioned from a paper-based enrollment and new student registration to an online platform," she said.

Registration can now be done in the comfort of your own home, according to Villagomez, and for parents who need a little extra help, PSS is ready to offer help.

"I would like to ask parents to visit the PSS website. Under PSS' website there's a K to 12 student enrollment and registration and when parents access that, it provides them with all the information that they need to be able to register new students or re-enroll their child. It can be a little overwhelming but…we are here to help our parents," she said.

For parents who may not have access to a device or a stable internet connection, Villagomez said PSS encourages them to visit their child's school.

"Call and make an appointment and come to the school site. [PSS staff] are there to help our parents reenroll or register their child. The devices there…provide step by step process. We have different levels of families who are at different levels of competency, when it comes to using the computer so that's why we are providing that support," she said.

Villagomez reminds parents who are going to register online that they need to make sure that they have their documents with them for a smooth registration process.

HOMEGROWN

From Page 2

Tinian Applicants:
Customer Service Intake Window
Department of Commerce – Tinian
San Jose Village, Tinian

Rota Applicants:
Administrative Office
Department of Land and Natural Resources – Rota
Liyo, Songsong Village, Rota

Where to obtain a homegrown application?

All applications and other resources are available to be downloaded from https://governor.gov.mp/priorities/cannabis/

Application inquiry contact

All inquiries regarding the CNMI Cannabis Commission applications should be emailed to: Saipan: info@cnmicannabis.org; Tinian: cannabistinian@gmail.com; Rota: thomas.cnmicannabiscomm@gmail.com ***(PR)***

SHORELINE MONITORING *at Mañagaha*

The beaches of the CNMI are vital coastal resources for economy, ecology, and recreation. Influenced by currents, wind patterns, and wave energy, shorelines are experiencing erosion (sediment loss) or accretion (sediment gain), while others appear stable. Particular beaches, such as Micro Beach, are noticeably abraded by strong storm events and subjected to long-term erosion. The loss of shoreline increases the vulnerability of near-shore infrastructure and communities to coastal hazards. DCRM's Shoreline Monitoring Program studies the state of CNMI shorelines to better inform coastal planning.

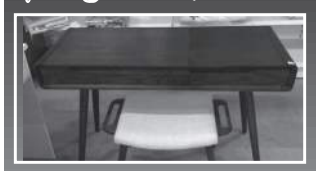
Since 2016, DCRM's Shoreline Monitoring Program surveys 17 beaches on Saipan, 9 beach transects on Mañagaha, 2 beaches on Tinian, and 4 beaches on Rota. The team uses the Berger surveying method to identify, measure, and track changes within these sites. Through taking bi-annual beach profiles of all our target sites, we can gain a better understanding of our changing shorelines and address shoreline erosion.

On Thursday, August 13th, DCRM's 2020 Summer Internship Cohort had the opportunity to conduct shoreline monitoring at Mañagaha. DCRM's Shoreline Monitoring Interns, Britney Espinosa, Lance Tudela, and Marvin Sablan, took the lead and taught their fellow interns how to conduct the survey, log collected data and identify the different characteristics of a shoreline (such as the vegetation line, berm(s) if any, high-tide line or wrack line, and the beach "toe" to name a few).

To learn more about DCRM's Shoreline Monitoring Program, Coastal Resource Planning, or other ongoing projects and programs, visit our website at **www.dcrm.gov.mp** or contact DCRM at **outreach@dcrm.gov.mp**!

WWW.DCRM.GOV.MP
Division of Coastal Resources Management
Tel.: (670) 664-8300 | Fax: (670) 664-8315
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
@GOINGCOASTAL_CNMI | @CNMICORAL

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!


NEW ARRIVALS!
VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

Legislator seeks to secure free internet for students

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Marco Peters' (R-Saipan) office is working with the islands' internet service providers, Docomo and IT&E, to explore the possibility of providing for free internet for the community while the CNMI is under a pandemic.

During the House Session yesterday, the legislator expressed concerns about the connectivity of students, especially with the Public School System's recent announcement that they are going to be reopening classes fully remotely on Sept. 8.

Peters cited the experience of his children who have already started school, and said that there have been "a lot of freezing when they go on video, whether it's Zoom or other applications. There have been dropped calls, dropped videos, freezing during class time."

"It's quite a big challenge to our Public School System, and especially with respect to the private schools that started the past few days," he said. "The internet is quick, but the access to internet from the homes depends on which area you are at. Whether it's a Docomo service or IT&E service, there are challenges throughout the islands," he said.

The legislator also took notice of the request for proposal that was sent out by the Public School System as just being an upgrade for the teachers. "Right now, the RFP that's going out is to upgrade the system for the teachers, which is great. But when you go from Precinct 4 down to Precinct 1, the access to internet is pretty bad. A lot of our kids don't have access to internet."

Peters raised concerns on bandwidth, and added that videos could get bogged down when PSS gets into session.

He said he wants to make access to learning made equal. "With PSS opening on Sept. 8, just sitting down and talking about it with Docomo and IT&E, I don't think they're ready for this. …My office continues working with Docomo and IT&E to see ways that we can give our communities free access to online learning, at least for the year during this pandemic. …I'm working hard to see what we can do to get the internet service throughout the islands in our respective districts."

Peters is also looking to find a grant that the CNMI can work on, for his goal to provide free internet at least for a year to assist with the public school system during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier, Education Commission Dr. Alfred Ada said that PSS is prepared with its WiFi on Wheels program, where internet routers are installed in PSS school buses that will then be parked in specific sites throughout the CNMI where students can go to and connect to the internet while inside their parents' or guardian's vehicle.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPLOSIVE DETECTION SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT PROJECT,** SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Explosive Detection Systems Replacement Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-006-16" and submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of the two existing Explosive Detections System (EDS) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport with a new temporary baggage facility for the temporary conveyors/EDS machines including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($1,500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00) for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

Each bidder shall file at the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, a written notice of intention to bid using the Intent to Bid Form on LP 2 of the specifications, or similar, at least seven **(7) calendar days** prior to the date designated for the opening of bid proposals.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director at the CPA Administration Office, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: July 30, 2020

US defense chief to visit Palau, Guam, Hawaii

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Mark Esper will travel to the tiny North Pacific island nation of Palau next week, as well as to Hawaii and the U.S. territory of Guam, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Esper

It will be only Esper's second international trip since the coronavirus pandemic hit early this year, forcing him to scale back his 2020 travel plans. He has made the Asia-Pacific region his top policy priority, although Palau is a rare destination for an American defense secretary.

Palau, an archipelago situated southeast of the Philippines, was administered by the United States for half a century before gaining independence in 1994. It is now among the Freely Associated states of the Pacific, along with Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, which are sovereign nations but have compacts with the U.S. that govern economic and other relations.

Guam was the scene of a lengthy and drama-filled U.S. Navy battle against the coronavirus; the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* pulled into Guam last spring after suffering a virus outbreak that killed one sailor.

During his trip, Esper will attend commemorative events marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. The battleship USS *Missouri*, aboard which Allied and Japanese representatives signed the war's surrender documents on Sept. 2, 1945, is now a memorial standing in Hawaii's Pearl Harbor.

SIS reevaluates reopening plan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan International School is reevaluating its preparedness plan following their campus opening last Monday due to newly reported COVID-19 cases and in response to reports of community transmission of the virus.

In a notice he issued Wednesday, SIS headmaster Ron Snyder notified about their plan to reevaluate opening up the campus to face-to-face learning.

"I have been really happy to see the students again on campus with their smiling faces, even if some of the faces have been hidden by masks. With the two new outbreaks in the community, we are reevaluating our preparedness and making plans to provide you the excellent education that you expect from us in an alternative format," he said.

Snyder said the plan is to possibly provide education remotely or through online classes, or partial online and partial face-to-face. "That might mean online, partial online, alternative settings, etc. In any case, SIS considers the online format a temporary solution until community spread is controlled," he said.

Even with online learning, students would still have to follow the regular school schedule, Snyder said.

"We will be using an improved GeckoNet system this year as well as a greatly enhanced Zoom platform. Students will follow their daily schedule on Zoom just as they would in the face to face class. The same time, the same bell schedule. Teachers will be using this format to deliver instruction from the campus and GeckoNet to collect all assignments. SIS prides itself on its professionalism and we will continue this in whatever format we use. Our commitment to you is that we will not use tools that were designed to supplement instruction to be the whole basis for instruction," he said.

Snyder said the SIS leadership will meet to discuss the situation and contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force for guidance to prioritize the health of students.

"The school leadership will meet tomorrow [yesterday's time] to discuss the situation and will attempt to contact Public Health, the COVID-19 Task Force, and the Department of Public Works for guidance in supporting our students' health and education," he said.

Currently, the only other educational institution that continues to hold face-to-face learning is Saipan Community School. Mount Carmel School, Northern Marianas College, and Green Meadow have also resumed classes but are currently 100% remote learning.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN

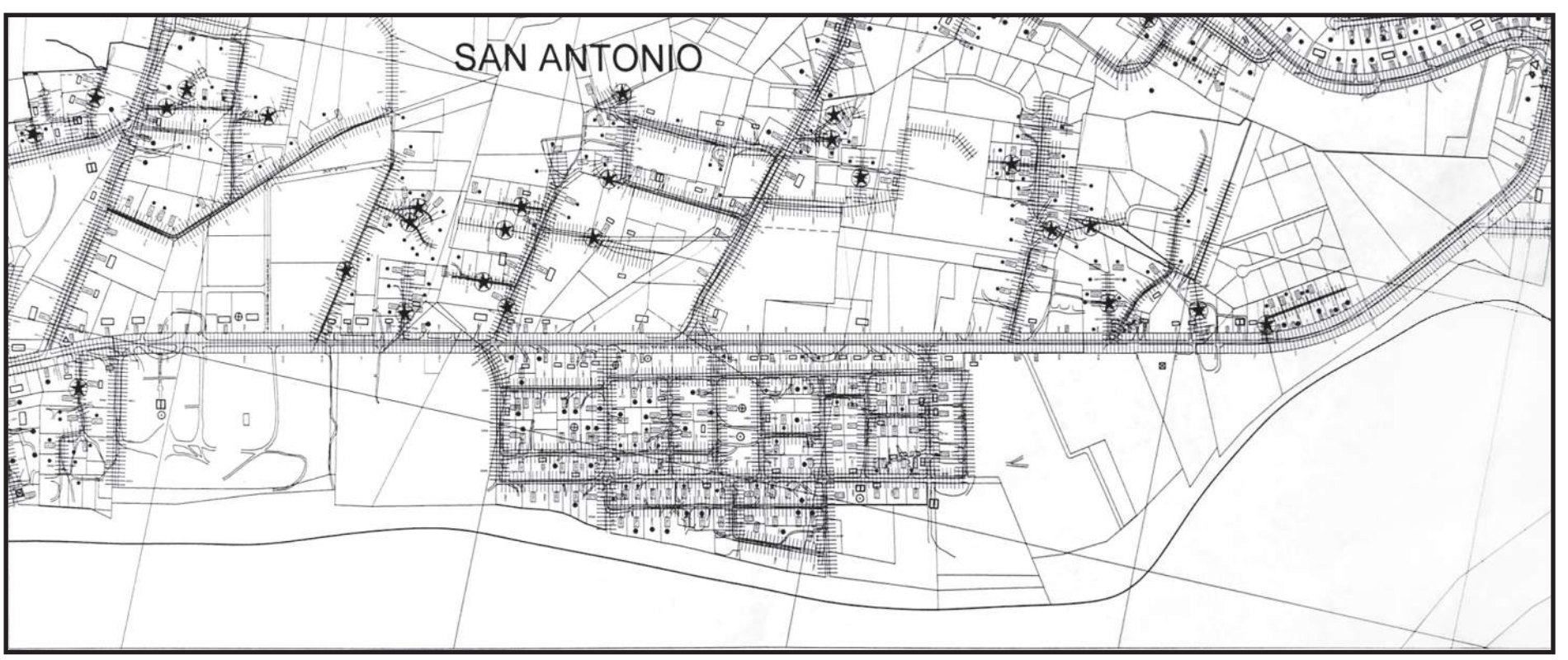
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan continues to work its way to the next project area in San Antonio Village after the initial project area in the Koblerville homestead subdivision, former MIHA turnkey subdivision, and Tottotville subdivision. The map of the next project area in San Antonio Village is shown below.

Mayor David M. Apatang respectfully requests the support and understanding of the homeowners and owners of buildings in the project area to welcome his office's street addressing staff and his office's consultant staff who will be visiting their homes and buildings beginning August 19, 2020.

The next project area will be announced in advance before the second project area (as shown on the map below) is completed.

Mayor Apatang appreciates your support and understanding as his office endeavors to carry out the addressing project so that every home and commercial and non-commercial building will be numbered.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D & W Saipan, Inc. The list of officers for D & W Saipan Inc., are Hyeon Kyu Lee, as President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, as Vice-President/Director, and Sung Soo Lim, as Secretary/Director.

iii. The proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of D & W Saipan, Inc., mainly Hyeon Kyu Lee and Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of general automotive products, including but not limited to fuel products auto inspection, office, and warehouse space necessary to conduct business and other related purposes.

The term of the proposed lease extension agreement is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENDIN ATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresåo na petsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerål siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda ni para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 090 D 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikonosimientu.

ii. The prospective lessee i D & W Saipan, Inc. I listan ufisiåt siha para D & W Saipan Inc., si Hyeon Kyu Lee, komu Presidenti/Direktot, si Ei Sook Kim Lee, komu Sigundu Presidenti/Direktot, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Sekritåriu/Direktot.

iii. I maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendin yan Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon ha tåttitiyi i regulasión DPL yan manigosiu ni ufisiåt yan direktot nu i D & W Saipan, Inc., mayotmenti si Hyeon Kyu Lee yan si Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu ha' na rason nu mambendi yan nu "general automotive products," ingklusu låo ti chi'ña para "fuel products auto inspection," ufisina, o sino "warehouse space" nisisåriu para u makundukta i bisnis yan ottru manasosiåt na rason.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon inekstendi sa kinsi (15) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durántin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendi yan i Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King's Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia managuaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkila masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Agosto 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL SÓBWEEYTÁL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Llól abwungubwungúl fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap isiis arongorong reel aar itittiw ngáli atkkilóónol ákkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Alléghúl Toulap 15-2 ebwal ayoorai, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge Lot 090 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 3,000 square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil bwuléy eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge D & W Saipan, Inc. List-al officers ngáli D & W Saipan Inc., nge Hyeon Kyu Lee, bwe President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, bwe Vice-President/Director, me Sung Soo Lim, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/Director.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwung iye e Láálááyló me Aruwooowal Liiwel ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e tipifool fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwolsángi officers me directors-il D & W Saipan, Inc., spesiatemente Hyeon Kyu Lee me Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwuléy ngáli akkaméélól me angaangil "general automotive products", e bwal schuulong nge ese mwutch ngáli "fuel products auto inspection", bwulasiyo, me "warehouse space" iye e ffil ngáli rebwe ffééru mwóghutughutúl "business" me ákkááw mwóghut ikka e toolong.

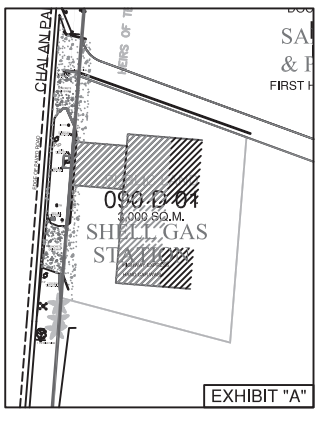
Pommwol abwungubwungúl láálááyil atkkilóón nge seigh me llimoow ráágh.

pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw ebwal schuulong "applicable percentage" reel "Business gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol Láálááyil Abwungubwung me Aruwoowal Liiwel ngáli Pommwol Atkkilóón emmwelil ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay me Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Elúwel 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Public suggestions sought in planning for NMI future

The Office of Planning and Development under the CNMI Office of the Governor,was created to help the CNMI plan for a sustainable future. Since its creation in 2017 under Public Law 20-20, OPD and the Planning Development Advisory Council have worked to bring public and private sector entities together in the creation of a comprehensive sustainable development plan for our islands.

Environmental Sustainability
Prudent use of natural resources and effective protection of the environment
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Economic Sustainability
Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment
Social Equity
Social progress which recognizes the needs of everyone

What is sustainability?

Planning for a sustainable future means taking many factors into account that affect the wellbeing of the CNMI's people, environment, and economy. To do this, OPD is focusing on three key questions:

1. Are we on track to secure a more sustainable CNMI?
2. What kind of future do we want to create?
3. What do we need to do to achieve this future?

There are many cross-cutting needs and much overlap between planning element areas. For example, equitable and effective education is needed to ensure increases in earning power and grow our economy, which will in turn support improved health and environmental outcomes. In the months ahead, OPD and the PDAC will work with elected officials, public servants, and the community to help CNMI envision what sustainable development means here and what we need to do to achieve it.

Get involved!

As a community member, there are a number of ways to get involved and make your voice heard.

■ Respond to the **CNMI Visioning Survey** (https://bit.ly/3a9Hjnj), which seeks your input on community priorities and initiatives to support sustainable development and build resiliency in the CNMI.

■ Respond to the **Guiding Values Survey** (https://bit.ly/3ir36K8), which asks about core values that you hope to see guide development planning in the CNMI.

■ Provide feedback on the **draft Visioning Document** (https://opd.gov.mp/draft_visioning/), which will help to inform the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan for the CNMI. Feedback on the visioning document may be submitted by email to planning@opd.gov.mp.

■ Participate in the **upcoming community meetings**, which will be taking place virtually Sept. 15-17, 2020. More information on these meetings will be forthcoming from OPD through a variety of channels to ensure that anyone who is interested has the opportunity to participate.

According to OPD director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, "Part of OPD's mission is to allow our people a voice and a platform where they can provide input on what they feel is important in planning for today and for future generations. The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically altered both the present and the future of the CNMI, and now, more than ever, is the time to get involved. Learn more and sign up for planning updates at opd.gov.mp." ***(PR)***

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2015 TOYOTA COROLLA LE

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/ (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties

A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2008 MAZDA 3 4SDN

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/ (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties

A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2017 MAZDA 6 - 4 DOOR SEDAN

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/ (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties

A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

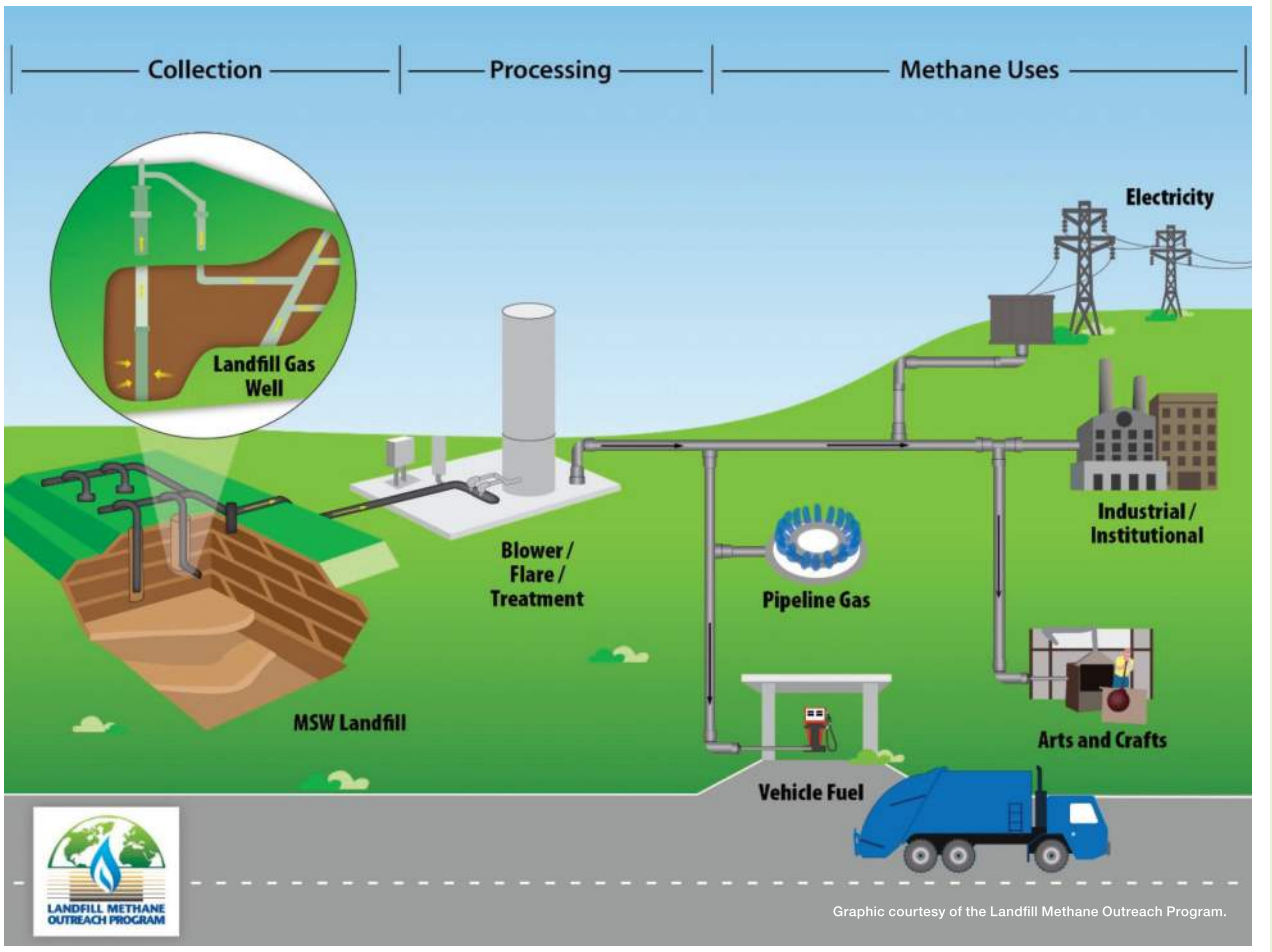
ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Saipan Landfills Studied for
Beneficial Use of Landfill Gas

In April 2019, EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. completed the ***Landfill Gas Extraction Feasibility Study*** commissioned by the CNMI Department of Public Works and the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse through funding provided by the US Department of Interior-Energizing Insular Communities Grant (D17AP00092). The purpose of this study was to assess renewable energy potential through the extraction of methane gas from two landfill sites on Saipan, the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park (formerly known as the Puerto Rico Dump) and the Marpi Solid Waste Facility (also known as the Marpi Landfill). Tests conducted at these two sites resulted in differing conclusions, ultimately identifying the Marpi Landfill as a potential source for future methane gas extraction. The study concludes that the Marpi Landfill will produce its highest concentrations of methane gas, one-to-two years post-closure of the landfill, reaching at maximum capacity by year 2048.

In the United States, there is an increasing demand for municipal landfills to capture gas and burn it to generate energy. This provides several benefits including producing energy to offset the cost of operating the landfill, reducing the amount of odorous gas emitted from the landfill, and it can lessen the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Methane, for example, is a potent greenhouse gas that has 30 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

The CNMI, like many other islands in Micronesia relies upon imported fossil fuels for its energy needs. In recent years, the CNMI's public and private sectors have increased investments into renewable energy sources, attempting to curtail the islands' reliance on fossil-fuelled power generation. Although this trend has shown promise, the recent growth of the CNMI's economy has only increased the islands' demand for energy production, far outpacing the development of the CNMI's renewable energy portfolio. As a result, the CNMI is continually searching for alternative sources of energy to supplement the islands' mounting energy needs. Such was the impetus for the landfill gas study which details the process by which methane gas is created within our landfills and its current and anticipated methane concentration levels.



Graphic courtesy of the Landfill Methane Outreach Program.

What is Methane and How is it Produced in Landfills?

Methane is a flammable gas, which along with carbon dioxide are naturally occurring by-products of the decomposition process. Methane is the main component of natural gas and depending on its mixture with other elements, methane fuels a variety of applications. Methane fuel powers everything from simple household appliances (i.e., ovens, water heaters, etc.), to vehicles and even rocket and jet engines.

On Saipan, all household and industrial solid waste is processed by the CNMI Department of Public Works, which segregates all received waste into three main categories: recyclables, construction waste and landfill waste. This diversion process eliminates nearly a third of all garbage that would otherwise enter the Marpi Landfill, substantially extending the useful life of the facility. On average, the Marpi Landfill receives approximately 25,000 tons (or 50 million pounds) of waste-per-year, majority of which is biodegradable. Once the waste is transported into the landfill, microbes begin the process of decomposing the organic waste from which the landfill gases of methane and carbon dioxide are produced in varying quantities over the life of the landfill.

Current and Future Methane Concentration Levels

For the purposes of ***Landfill Gas Extraction Feasibility Study***, two sites were selected for landfill gas sampling, the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park and the Marpi Solid Waste Facility. Prior to its opening in March 2017, the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park was once the site of the former Puerto Rico Dump (PRD) which officially ended its operation on February 11, 2003. The Puerto Rico Dump was first used as a metal scrap yard by the military in 1945 and eventually served as the island's sole refuse disposal facility until its 2003 closure. The final capping of the Puerto Rico Dump did not occur until 2011 and has since been repurposed as a scenic park north of the Garapan tourist district.

Nineteen (19) landfill gas sampling probes were installed at various locations along the 20 acre PRD site, of which only five (5) probes provided useful data for analysis. The culmination of the testing concluded that the Eloy S. Inos Peace Park had an average methane content of 46.1%. The data collected indicates that the PRD site's peak methane production occurred in 2004, which had an approximate methane content of 81.75% but has gradually tapered off as no new organic waste has been introduced into the site. This data is supported by other studies which indicate that most landfills produce their highest concentrations of methane gas, typically a year or two after the landfill's closure.

Similarly, the Marpi Solid Waste Facility was also analyzed for its potential to extract methane and the study concluded that the Marpi Landfill currently has a methane content level of 60.3%. Although much higher than the former Puerto Rico Dump's average, the methane content of the Marpi Landfill is still much lower than the potential to be realized after the landfill's closure in 2048. Due to the Marpi Landfill's size it is estimated that the site will potentially produce three (3) times the maximum methane production of the PRD site a year or two after the Marpi Landfill is finally capped off.

The study concludes that the Marpi Solid Waste Facility does possess the potential to produce methane gas in quantities useful for extraction in the future. Unfortunately, the data further revealed that the Marpi Landfill will not produce enough methane gas to be a cost-effective. It will cost more to install and maintain the landfill gas collection system than it would produce in cost savings for the state. It would be able to power a small-scale generator onsite at the landfill, but nowhere close enough to reach megawatt distribution levels.

In the meantime, the CNMI continues its search for alternative energy sources and other methods of solid waste management, such as Plasma Gasification to protect the delicate ecosystem of our islands and solar photovoltaic systems.

The Marpi Landfill

This informational piece is funded in part by a grant under the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, through grant award number D17AP00092. Any questions relating to this article may be forwarded to the Division of Solid Waste Management at 322-2745.

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 166
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mask up and stay distant to hasten the end of COVID-19

The litany of COVID-19's curtailments is long. In-person schools and offices, the freedom to visit friends and family at will, and indoor gatherings of many types rank high, among many others. These share a tantalizing commonality: If the virus ever subsides, we can get past them and resume a semblance of former lifestyles.

College conferences such as the Big Ten and PAC-12 added to the losses list by canceling the season of football and other fall sports. The widely expected decision showed how farsighted planning must be to even contemplate a post-COVID-19 life: months, not weeks.

The pandemic and its costs have been needlessly prolonged by several factors: the botched federal response, resistance to protective measures and casual departures in discipline. Businesses that disregard state mask mandates and distancing share the blame. So do masses of fraternity members who congregate for maskless beers, and politicians who dismiss and undercut mask-wearing.

It doesn't have to be this way. Rigorous, responsible and self-enforced protective efforts by everyone could bring a semblance of normal life back within weeks.

That's science talking, not just wishful thinking. The prestigious New England Journal of Medicine published a study July 29 assessing the potential reopening of America's elementary schools. Its examination of successful global efforts pegged significant pandemic suppression to "less than two months" of "stringent community control measures"—that is, everyone in a mask and nonessential indoor spaces shut down for a short, difficult period.

"If such measures were adopted now, transmission in many states could probably be reduced to safe levels for mid-September or early-October school reopenings," wrote the paper's authors, researchers from Harvard University and the United Kingdom.

Weeks later "such measures" are not uniformly required. The medicine is hard to take. Masks aren't comfortable, and shuttered businesses don't make money. But look around—the series of closures and reclosures now extends months ahead. And as long as the infection rate stubbornly rises again after each dip, this ordeal will endure. Children will likely be home from school for long months. Perhaps a vaccine will be discovered. If so, testing, distribution and mass inoculation will require still more time.

Don't wait. Help now and act responsibly and vigilantly.

"Where we see the transmissions occur are when we let our hair down and have a good time with our friends," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said Thursday.

To get normal life back, exercise extraordinary discipline in the near term. The PAC-12's athletic directors just showed what the alternative looks like: months until there's any hope of return.

Mask up, and stay socially distant. It hurts, but it's the way.

(c) 2020 *The Seattle Times*

Why you should buy Microsoft instead of a wedding dress

By AMBER PETROVICH
Los Angeles Times

Amber Petrovich creates content about investing and the wealth gap on TikTok and YouTube.

It struck me as I stood in the bridal shop, looking at the flowing white dresses adorning the pink walls—the contradiction inherent in a wedding dress. It's a once-in-a-lifetime gown that's meant to flawlessly fit your body with perfect alignment to your taste and style. A wedding dress is supposed to embody originality, yet the billowing white gowns felt homogeneous. Identical.

By the time I looked at a price tag, I had already decided to say "no" to the dress. And "no" to the big wedding, with hold-the-date mailings, invite mailings, and a venue that has to be secured two years in advance with a $1,200 deposit.

This was pre-COVID-19, when the biggest wedding concerns were how to make it Instagram-worthy. Now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is advising canceling gatherings with more than 10 people. Weddings are being rescheduled or scrapped altogether as wedding planners wonder if this is the end of the statement-wedding era.

Please let it be so. Perhaps the pandemic and the need to quarantine will give society the time it needs to reexamine what a wedding should be. With luck, expensive, elaborate weddings will die out with the virus.

I was never one of those little girls who started planning her dream wedding in grade school. I never sat around envisioning how I wanted my wedding dress to look. But ever since I read my first investing book in high school, I've been keenly interested in how I wanted my finances to look. Once I became engaged and started reviewing wedding options that fit our humble budget, it only strengthened my long-held conviction: Weddings, at least the grand productions that have become increasingly popular, are a waste of money.

The average American wedding dress costs $1,631, according to Brides.com. Today I could buy eight shares of Microsoft with that money. If a bride bought eight shares of Microsoft 25 years ago with her money—instead of a wedding dress that she'd have to give to Goodwill because her daughter would never wear something so outdated—that investment would be worth about $26,000 now. Microsoft's investment results calculator backs me up on this. Instead of a dress with a one-day lifespan, you could invest in "wedding stock" of your choosing.

If the cost of the dress doesn't faze you, let's look at the cost of an average U.S. wedding—almost $34,000 last year. Now consider that 70% of Americans have less than $1,000 in savings.

Sure, weddings create memories for a lifetime, but I also want to retire in my lifetime. Nobody should go into debt or experience financial hardship for one day of celebration.

The reality is that when many of us are planning weddings, we're not flush with cash and statistics show neither are many of our parents. Almost 80% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. That alone should inspire us as a society to take a good, hard look at what has become a wedding industrial complex.

After all, when the big day is over, what have you gained materially? Some wedding photos, one of which you'll frame or use for a profile pic. Some gifts—a gravy boat, a waffle maker, five-piece porcelain place settings that'll mostly stay in a cabinet. But you don't have to throw a party that costs a fortune to receive wedding gifts from family and friends.

In a way, the pandemic is giving society a wedding gift. The sudden absence of enormous, over-the-top weddings is an opportunity for financial gain. You have been given permission to go your own way.

Couples and their parents don't have to go broke on over-the-top venues and uninspired banquet food. Bridesmaids don't have to spend money on a dress they may never wear again. Would-be guests don't have to throw down hundreds of dollars for plane tickets and hotels.

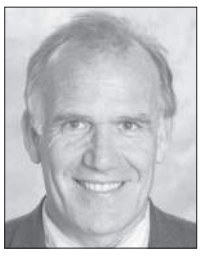
If we remove the expectation of extravagance from the wedding equation, we can still invite family and friends—within reason. If you celebrate with 50 or even just 15 of them, will you really notice the absence of the 150 you left off the list? After all, the average American has 16 friends, according to a recent poll. Outside of our nuclear families, how many "family" members really need to be there?

One year after my bridal shop epiphany, I married my husband at the Los Angeles airport courthouse, with just the two of us and an officiant. Cost of the wedding: $90 for the marriage license. It was intimate and easy. And the money we saved offset the cost of trips we took to honeymoon in Aruba and visit family later that year.

We've been married five years, and I occasionally long for the wedding I never had. When I look at my investment portfolio, those feelings always go away.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A sort of goodbye to Germany?



By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON
Tribune News Service

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won*, from Basic Books. You can reach him by emailing authorvdh@gmail.com.*

President Donald Trump recently ordered a 12,000-troop reduction in American military personnel stationed in Germany. That leaves about 24,000 American soldiers still in the country.

A little more than half of the troops being withdrawn will return home. The rest will be redeployed to other NATO member nations such as Belgium, Italy and perhaps Baltic and Eastern European countries.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is said to be furious. She claims the redeployments will "weaken the (NATO) alliance." German commercial interests chimed in that the troop withdrawals will hurt their decades-old businesses serving U.S. bases.

Perhaps, but Merkel surely cannot be surprised. Six years ago, all NATO members pledged to spend 2% of their GDP on defense. Yet only eight of 29 so far have kept their word.

Germany spends only about 1.4% of its GDP on defense. As NATO's largest, wealthiest and most powerful European member, it sets the example for the rest of alliance.

Merkel's reneging on her 2014 pledge helps explain why less wealthy and influential NATO members also see no reason to meet their obligations.

Germany surely knows that 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the World War II, and the 29th year since the fall of the Berlin Wall—the symbolic end of the Cold War.

Will there be any point in the future when Europe is confident enough to be a full defense partner with the U.S. rather than an eight-decade client?

NATO, of course, still provides a common European defense, but only by habitually relying inordinately on U.S. military contributions. That dependence seems increasingly odd when the European Union has an aggregate GDP nearly as large as America's.

More important, NATO's front-line threats are now mostly concerned with rogue member Turkey, especially its bullying of Greece and its increasingly aggressive stance in the Middle East.

Russia always poses a threat to Europe. But the likely flashpoints are not on the German border, but more likely eastward in the Baltic states or on the Russian frontier with Poland.

Moreover, the Merkel government has concluded, over American objections, a huge natural gas deal with Russia that is currently under some U.S. sanctions and short of cash.

Russian energy exports to Germany are said to earn Russia $10 billion a year, with a likely doubling of that income once additional pipelines to Germany are completed.

Merkel likes to lecture the world on moral issues, but what is so noble about empowering Russian President Vladimir Putin, who recently reclaimed Crimea and seems now to be eyeing Belarus?

Like a modern-day Byzantine emperor Justinian, who recovered much of the lost Western Roman Empire, Putin seems to think he can reabsorb the lost Soviet republics.

In recent polling, Germans were more anti-American than any other nation in Europe. And while about 75% of Americans believe the U.S. still has a good relationship with Germany, only about a third of Germans feel that way about the U.S. Nearly half the German population in some polls want U.S. troops out.

Note that Germany piles up the largest annual trade surplus with the U.S. of any nation in Europe—roughly $55 billion to $70 billion in most years. The Trump administration says the surpluses have grown in large part due to asymmetry in tariffs and duties, with Germany the far more protectionist of the two partners.

With Germany now united, rich and often angry, and with the Soviet threat largely over, it's Germany, not the U.S., that seems to have altered its view of this once-solid relationship.

Does Merkel really believe that if her nation cuts huge deals with NATO's historically greatest threat, polls as the most anti-American country in Europe and still refuses to honor its promises to increase defense spending, Germany still deserves a large American commitment of 36,000 troops to anchor its defense?

There is one caveat that the Trump administration and other European countries might consider.

According to its founders, NATO was created for three reasons: to keep the always aggressive Russians "out" of Europe, to keep the often isolationist Americans "in" to help protect it, and to keep the supposedly restless Germans "down" in order to avoid a replay of their invasions that ignited both world wars.

In other words, the huge defense commitment to an often ungracious Germany over eight decades was not just envisioned to create a central base from which to protect Europe from ancient Russian ambitions, but also to remind Germany itself of its checkered past.

That third mission seems ossified and silly now. But it is not entirely forgotten, and it may explain why many in Europe—and some in Germany itself—are worried when any American soldiers leave Germany.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'We invited the fox into the henhouse'

So IPI is asking to renew its casino license. Even though it can't pay the license fee. It can't even pay its employees, nor pay its other bills.

What happened to that seven-billion-dollar project IPI was building on Saipan? It looks like IPI now doesn't even have a few thousand dollars for a court judgment.

And the Commonwealth Casino Commission? The body that is supposed to represent the Commonwealth and negotiate the best possible terms from the casino on behalf of the Commonwealth? They're rolling over. As usual.

Could it be because they know which hand feeds them?

Ever seen casino commissioners in Las Vegas or Atlantic City meet with the casinos? The casino representatives are scared. They bring a team of lawyers and a stack of papers and are prepared for hard questions. And on Saipan? It's the casino commissioners who are scared of the casino. It's the casino reps who dictate the agenda of the commissioners' meetings and decide what the commission will vote on.

Is IPI scared of CCC? No. It treats it like a joke. It treats all of us like a joke. IPI tells flat-out lies to CCC, and CCC does nothing about it.

IPI breaks laws, cheats vendors, underpays employees, ignores construction standards, and even had the gall to disturb our ancestors' remains. What does CCC do? They politely stand on two paws in front of their master. What does Ralph Torres do? Rolls over for IPI like a good boy. His "warning letter" to IPI? All for show. A "warning" is easy.

I don't fault IPI for taking advantage of the situation. There's a saying in China: "If you can take advantage, then do it."

We invited the fox into the henhouse and we got exactly what everybody said we'd be getting. Every expert who wasn't paid by IPI or Torres said IPI could never keep its promises and is not a legitimate operation. Every one.

It's not like we couldn't see this coming.

Every professional casino industry publication said that IPI will never build the promised casino resort, and will just keep making up excuses. Typhoon, another typhoon, dog ate homework, whatever. A legitimate business knows that unexpected things happen, and doesn't use them as excuses. Every casino professional knew that all IPI would give us was excuses.

It's not like Ralph Torres was incapable of opening a newspaper or website. With all the electronics he buys with our public funds, he could probably read, watch, and listen to quite a few news sources all at once.

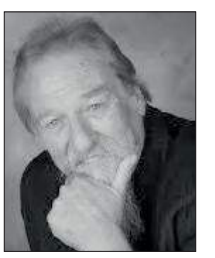
And now, after years and years of broken promises, an unpaid community benefit fund, cheated businesses, stiffed employees, dead and injured construction workers, desecrated graves, indicted executives, IPI wants to renew the license? Without even paying the license fee?

We've trained IPI to expect to get whatever they request. That they are asking yet again shouldn't be surprising. The only thing surprising is our government keeps working on IPI's behalf, not ours—and that some people will still vote for the same old "leaders" in November.

Ray S. Cabrera
As Lito, Saipan

BOOK REVIEW: 40 Thieves on Saipan

40 Thieves on Saipan: The Elite Marine Scout-Snipers in One of WWII's Bloodiest Battles. *Joseph Tachovsky with Cynthia Kraack. Regnery History, 2020.*



By DON FARRELL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Don Farrell is author of the acclaimed book Tinian and The Bomb*, available on line at https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07BMTVF1K*

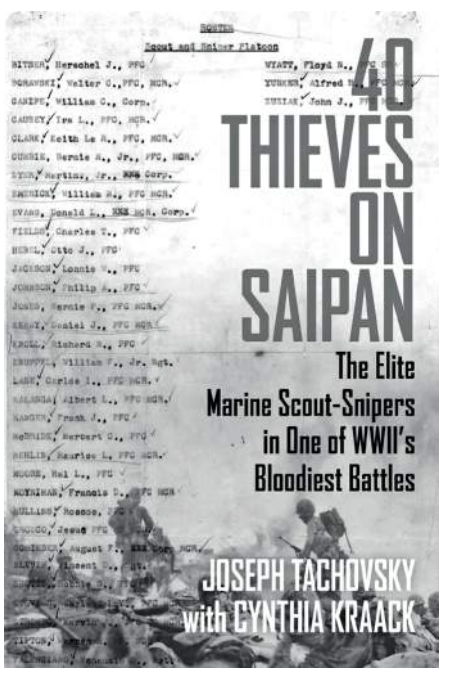
Those interested on the battle for Saipan will enjoy a new book from Regnery History: *The Elite Marine Scout-Snipers in One of WWII's Bloodiest Battles.*

The tone for the book is set with a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt: "The Marines I have seen around the world have the cleanest bodies, the filthiest minds, the highest morale, and the lowest morals of any group of animals I have ever seen.

"Thank God for the United States Marine Corps."

The book tells the story of 40 men who were handpicked to serve in a scout-sniper unit during the invasion of Saipan, 1944. One on their talents was scrounging what they needed to stay alive and get the job done.

After the battles for Guadalcanal and Tarawa, the Second Marine Division was called upon to fight for Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands. On Jan. 11, 1944, Col. "Gentleman Jim" Riseley, who was no gentlemen, called First Lt. Frank Tachovsky into his tent at Parker Ranch, U.S. Territory of Hawaii. The seasoned lieutenant, who had just been put up for a Silver Star for taking out a bunker on Tarawa, stood at attention before the improvised desk behind which sat the commander of the 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.



Riseley said he wanted to create a scout-sniper platoon to serve his headquarter's battalion during the battle for Saipan. He offered the job to Tachovsky, who immediately accepted. "Alright then, welcome aboard. You can choose the men you want from the entire regiment."

"Ski's" son, who earned a degree from the University of Minnesota, then tells the story of how his dad personally chose each man, and then describes their amazing deeds on Saipan. I particularly enjoyed his description of the battle for Hill 500 and Mt. Tipo Pale.

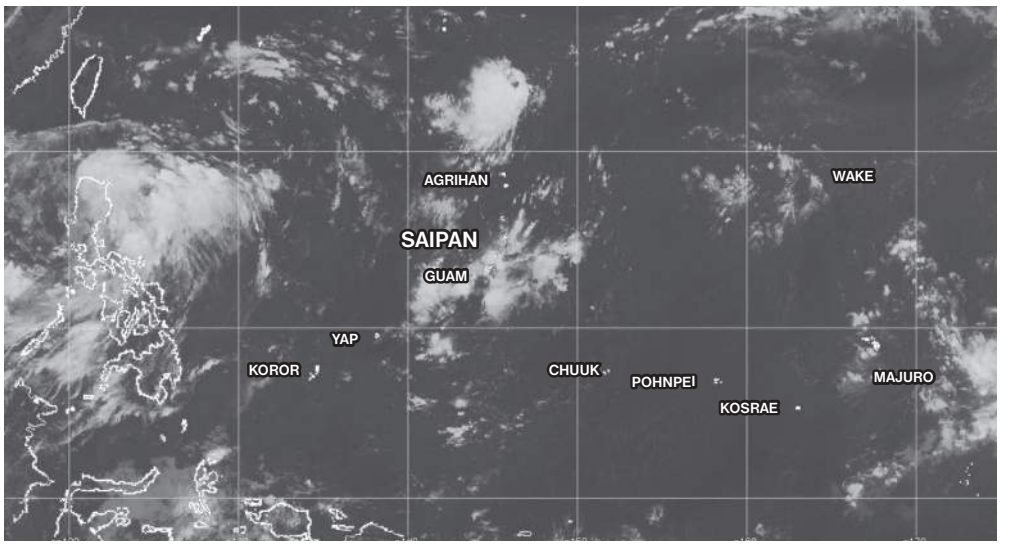
The book is well illustrated with both photos and maps, and is a comfortable read. It is one of those books history buffs will want to take to the jungle and read passages right where the action took place.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers, except mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the afternoon for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers, except mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoons for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89º / 77º	88º / 77º	88º / 76º	88º / 77º	88º / 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:32 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers, and light and variable winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. Buoys show seas between 1 and 2 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

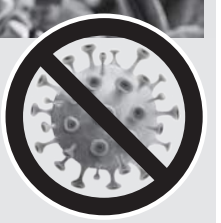
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:53 AM	8:31 PM	-
Saturday	8:52 AM	9:15 PM	-
Sunday	9:50 AM	10:00 PM	-
Monday	10:48 AM	10:46 PM	-
Tuesday	11:47 AM	11:34 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	57° / 46°
Beijing	Rain	84° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	93° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	88° / 82°
New York	Mostly Sunny	85° / 73°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Paris	Sunny	81° / 57°
Busan	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 74°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.00
8:28 AM	LOW TIDE	2.17
3:27 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.01
9:54 PM	LOW TIDE	2.11

STOP THE SPREAD



The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MVA: Travelers still interested

"Dear Meat for Dinner" YouTube host Rob Arrington visits the remote island of Pagan in an episode filmed in the Marianas in July 2020. The Marianas Visitors Authority continues to receive inquiries from potential travelers worldwide interested in visiting the 14-island archipelago. MVA

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic which has stalled travel worldwide, the Marianas Visitors Authority continues to field inquiries from individuals interested in visiting the Marianas.

MVA offices in the Marianas, Korea, Japan, and Taiwan continue to receive questions related to quarantine requirements, immigration, customs, flight information, marketing campaigns, and tourist spots and activities. For example, the MVA received 65 phone inquiries in Korea last month, with about half of the callers seeking information on entry requirements.

"We can see that there continues to be awareness of the Marianas and interest among potential travelers to visit the destination," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "As the government and tourism industry continue to work toward the safe reopening of the destination, we are optimistic that our unique appeal as a resort destination, as well as our strong response against COVID-19, will work in our favor when we are able to reopen."

Following recent exposure of the destination by YouTube channel "Deer Meat for Dinner," which has been in production on the islands since June 2020, the MVA has also received inquiries about the remote Northern Islands and hunting opportunities. The show and host Robert Arrington has produced 19 videos about the Marianas this year, generating over 10 million views and over $351 million worth of ad exposure value.

"What a beautiful place with such history!" said one viewer. "Really makes me think about the bravery and mental fortitude of the men that fought for our country. Makes sense why they are named the greatest generation. …I definitely hope to take my family there someday."

Another viewer wrote the MVA directly about plans to visit.

"My wife...and I started planning our trip to the Marianas after Robert's first videos of his first visit to your wonderful paradise. I do not plan to hunt, but I intend to camp (away from the wild cows), go fishing, crabbing, and play some music for some of you on my guitar," wrote the viewer last month. "This second visit of his to your islands is only strengthening my resolve to come visit your wonderful island paradise."

"Deer Meat for Dinner" first aired episodes from the Marianas in 2018 featuring the island of Rota and is now producing a series covering the entire 14-island archipelago.

"We've also been contacted by a group interested in filming an educational documentary in the Northern Islands next year, and we hope their plans will solidify," said Iakopo. "We're excited that despite the special logistical needs, the Northern Islands are starting to generate visitor demand, as well."

For more information on the Marianas, visit www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Conventions highlight need for voting rights in US territories

Last Wednesday night at the Democratic National Convention, when the delegate counts for the party's next presidential nominee were read out, the DNC touted its roll call as representing "all 57 states and U.S. territories." Next week, the Republican National Convention will do the same. The appearance of each territory and its representatives on the television screens of millions of Americans helps educate people across the United States that residents of U.S. territories are fully engaged U.S. citizens just like the residents of any state. But as the delegation from the Northern Mariana Islands noted last night, "We are American citizens…but we don't get to vote for President."

» New federal lawsuit will seek to expand voting rights in the territories

"While residents of territories fully participate in the nominating conventions for both parties, they remain unable to vote for President in November, when it matters most," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and the right to vote in U.S. territories. "We are seeking to change that through a new voting rights lawsuit that will highlight discrimination against residents of the territories when it comes to the right to vote."

Building on the national attention the territories are receiving at the party conventions, as well as the recent focus on territorial voting rights in Congress, Equally American is helping develop a new federal voting rights lawsuit that seeks to expand voting rights in U.S. territories. This new case will build from Equally American's prior efforts in *Segovia v. United States*, which succeeded in raising the profile of voting rights issues in the territories, even as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit ultimately did not rule in favor of plaintiffs. However, recent historic wins in *United States v. Vaello Madero*, *Pena Martinez v. US Department of Health and Human Services*, and *Schaller v U.S. Social Security Administration* reflect an increasing openness by federal courts to take a stand for equal treatment in U.S. territories.

The new federal lawsuit will be filed on behalf of current residents of U.S. territories who previously were residents of Hawaii. As Equally American develops the case, it is reaching out to connect with residents of the territories who would like to be able to vote for President and are former residents of Hawaii. The focus on Hawaii is based on certain jurisdictional requirements associated with the new lawsuit. Others are also encouraged to share their stories about what it means to them to be denied the right to vote for President and voting representation in Congress.

Those who are interested in sharing their stories—especially those who are former residents of Hawaii—are encouraged to take Equally American's Right to Vote Survey, available at http://www.equalrightsnow.org/right_to_vote_survey.

"The right to vote should not depend on your zip code or where you happen to live," Weare said. "Please take our 'right to vote survey' (http://www.equalrightsnow.org/right_to_vote_survey) to share why you want to be able to vote for President in November, not just during the party primaries." ***(PR)***

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES F0197
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7859 | Fax. (670) 234-5749
E mail: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com

Attorney for Petitioner Judee Adair Chapman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WENDY VICTORIA WOLCOTT, Deceased.) Civil Action No. 20-0090) NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION DATE: September 17, 2020 TIME: 10:00 a.m. JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE WENDY VICTORIA WOLCOTT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **MICHAEL WILT**, Executor of the Estate of Wendy Victoria Wolcott, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands a **Petition for Final Decree of Distribution**. The attorney for the Petitioner/Executor is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the **17th day of the September, 2020** at **10:00 a.m.** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All Interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Date this 18th day of August, 2020.

/s/_____
Deputy Clerk of Court

ELENA C. WHITENACK AND BENJAMIN R. VILLA
P.O. BOX 7389, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL.: 670-285-7784 and 285-1405

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF JOHN MANDY C. PEREZ AN INCOMPETENT PERSON BY ELENA C. WHITENACK & BENJAMIN R. VILLA PETITIONERS) FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0198) NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that a petitioner for appointment of guardianship for the above-named by **ELENA C. WHITENACK & BENJAMIN R. VILLA**, petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled honorable court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

A hearing of said petition for guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 24th day of August, 2020 at 9:00am or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick v. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. DIANA M. QUIITUGUA, Defendant.) Civil Action No. 10-0261) SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of September, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **24th day of September, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 326 R 14, (part of Lot 326 R 13, which was part of Lot 326 R 08, part Lot 316 R 02, part original Lot 316 R 01), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 326 R 00, the original of which recorded on June 2, 1998 as Document No. 98-1643 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing or by email with full name and complete signature to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Bidders are to contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 3rd day of August, 2020.

/s/_____
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, MPLT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LILY A HOCOG, Deceased.) Civil Action No. 11-0197) NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Granting MPLT's Second Petition to Sell Real Property Secured by Mortgaged to Satisfy MPLT's Claim against the Estate entered in the above titled action on July 02, 2020, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from Descendant Lily A. Hocog. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **September 24, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.,** at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room in Capital Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 330 R 035, containing an area of 859 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Land and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02 dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of July, 2020.

/s/_____
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Business

MARK RABAGO
Pacific Source opened its second location in Garapan next to the JP Center building and Sisters Nail Salon last June.

Pacific Source opens 2nd location in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pacific Source seems to be thriving even during the pandemic as it opened a second location in the more central location of Garapan a couple of months ago.

Owner Jim Cabanes said the fish store opened its first location in Kagman across Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort in 2019. They started selling fish in their latest location in Garapan next to the JP Center building and Sisters Nail Salon in June.

"While our Kagman location caters to the eastern neighborhoods of Saipan, we chose our Garapan location to offer convenience to those who are on-the-go. After all, there is a saying that 'all roads lead to Garapan!'" he said.

Pacific Source sells a variety of pelagic fish, reef fish, bottom fish, and invertebrates (octopus and squid). "Popularity varies depending on our customer's preference. In addition to fish, we also sell organic lettuce grown from a local hydroponic farm," said Cabanes, who added that they get most of their fish from local fishermen.

Just some of the fish available at their fish stand include lobster, tuna, parrot fish, hiyok, hangon, tataga, guili, mafute, and opakapaka.

While they still don't offer the cleaning of fish, Pacific Source will soon offer the service, according to Cabanes. "We are in the works of providing this service soon! Keep an eye out!"

Like all businesses in the CNMI, Pacific Source has felt the negative effects of COVID-19, despite opening a new location. "COVID-19's presence has definitely affected the entire islands' economy and our business is not exempt from that. Our tourist clientele is not as significant as it used to be," said Cabanes.

As far as safety precautions to stymie the spread of the coronavirus, Pacific Source said they follow the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. guidelines. "We take safety precautions seriously even prior to and during this pandemic. In addition to social distancing, sanitizing of hands, and wearing of face masks, there is regular sanitation of the fish stand, coolers, and equipment," said Cabanes.

Pacific Source's Garapan location is open from Monday to Saturday, 7am-7pm and on Sunday, 1pm-5pm. The Kagman location, meanwhile, is open from Mondays to Saturdays, 8am-5:30pm. For more information, call 789-3323.

Cabanes said he's just happy that, even during this time of COVID-19, Pacific Source provides a valuable service to the community and, at the same time, gives them a way to make a living. "Thanks to our loyal customers who support both locations, our business is steadily thriving," he said.

MARK RABAGO
Owner Jim Cabanes holds up a parrot fish on the left and a mufute on the right.

MARK RABAGO
Pacific Source also sells organic lettuce grown from a local hydroponic farm.

Huawei, long resilient, suffers under tougher US pressure

BEIJING (AP)—For nearly a decade, Huawei kept worldwide sales growing as Washington told U.S. phone companies not to buy its network equipment and lobbied allies to reject China's first global tech brand as a security threat.

Focusing on Europe, Asia, Africa and China's booming market, Huawei became the biggest maker of switching gear and a major smartphone brand. As the White House cut off access to American components and Google's popular music and other smartphone services, Huawei unveiled its own processor chips and app development. Last year's sales rose 19% to $123 billion.

Now, Huawei Technologies Ltd. is suffering in earnest as Washington intensifies a campaign to slam the door on access to foreign markets and components in its escalating feud with Beijing over technology and security.

European and other phone carriers that bought Huawei gear despite U.S. pressure are removing it from their networks. Huawei got a flicker of good news when it passed rivals Samsung and Apple as the No. 1 smartphone brand in the quarter ending in June thanks to sales in China, but demand abroad is plunging.

"Huawei is losing market share quite dramatically outside China," said industry analyst Paul Budde. "Their international position is most likely going to get worse rather than better."

In the latest blow, the Commerce Department this week confirmed rules announced in May that will bar non-American companies from using U.S. technology to make processor chips and other components for Huawei without a government license.

The president of Huawei's consumer business, Richard Yu, says it is running out of chips for smartphones. Yu said as of Sept. 15, contractors will be forced to stop making Kirin chips designed by Huawei's engineers and used in its most advanced handsets.

"This is a very big loss for us," Yu said Aug. 8 at an industry conference, China Info 100.

Thousands of chicks arrive dead to farmers amid USPS turmoil

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—At least 4,800 chicks shipped to Maine farmers through the U.S. Postal Service have arrived dead in the recent weeks since rapid cuts hit the federal mail carrier's operations, U.S. state Rep. Chellie Pingree said.

Pingree, a Maine Democrat, is raising the issue of the dead chicks and the losses farms are facing in a letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and U.S. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Sonny Perdue, The Portland Press Herald reported Wednesday.

Pauline Henderson, who owns Pine Tree Poultry in New Sharon, Maine, told the newspaper she was shocked last week when all of the 800 chicks sent to her from a hatchery in Pennsylvania were dead.

"Usually they arrive every three weeks like clockwork," she said. "And out of 100 birds you may have one or two that die in shipping."

Henderson told the newspaper thousands of birds that moved through the Postal Service's processing center in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, were also dead, impacting several farms in Maine and New Hampshire.

The Postal Service's media contact for the Eastern U.S. did not immediately return a Press Herald reporter's message Wednesday.

"It's one more of the consequences of this disorganization, this sort of chaos they've created at the post office and nobody thought through when they were thinking of slowing down the mail," Pingree said, adding that her office has received dozens of complaints from farmers and others trying to raise a small flock of chickens in the backyard.

"And can you imagine, you have young kids and they are getting all excited about having a backyard flock and you go to the post office and that's what you find?"

Pingree said she isn't sure if Perdue is aware of how the changes in the Postal Service are impacting smaller poultry farmers in the U.S.

"This is a system that's always worked before and it's worked very well until these changes started being made," Pingree said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
27,692.88	3,374.85	11,146.46
−85.19	−14.93	-64.38
.031%	0.44%	0.57%

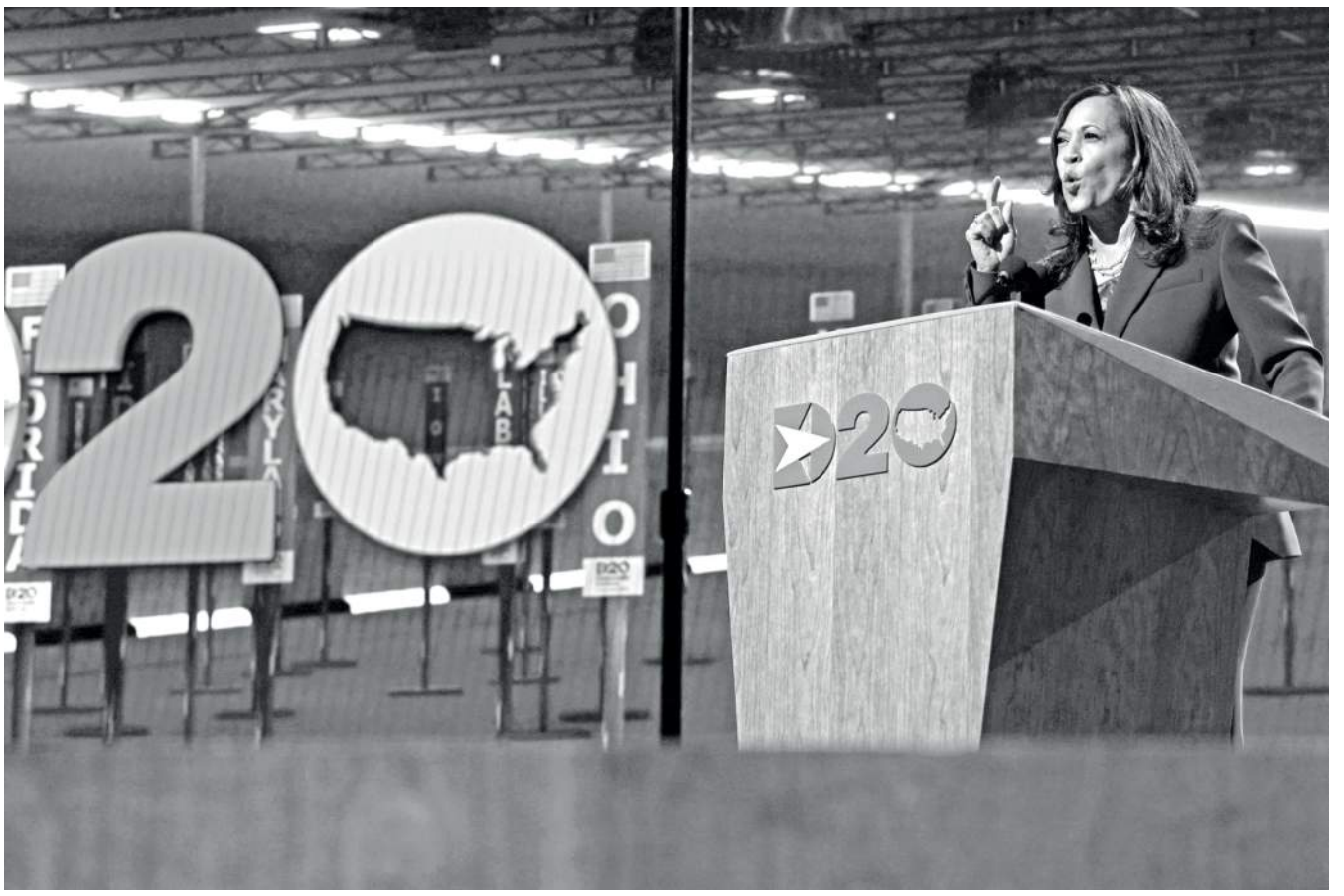
EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3940	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7501	Russian Ruble	72.5614
British Pound	0.7640	Indian Rupee	74.6606	Singapore Dollar	1.3700
Canadian Dollar	1.3217	Japanese Yen	106.1070	South Korean Won	1164.16
Chinese Yuan	6.8287	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1306	Swiss Franc	0.9148
Euro	0.8442	New Zealand Dollar	1.5245	Taiwan Dollar	28.9474
		Philippine Peso	47.8280	Thailand Baht	31.3250

Nation

Democrats pound their message: To oust Trump, you must vote



AP
Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., speaks during the third day of the Democratic National Convention, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, at the Chase Center in Wilmington, Del.

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Former President Barack Obama warned Wednesday night that American democracy may not survive if Donald Trump is reelected, delivering a scathingly remarkable assessment of his successor at the Democratic National Convention. Then delegates broke a historic barrier by nominating Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's running mate and the first Black woman on a national political ticket.

Obama, himself a barrier breaker as the nation's first Black president, pleaded with voters to "embrace your own responsibility as citizens – to make sure that the basic tenets of our democracy endure. Because that's what is at stake right now. Our democracy."

The third night of the Democrats' four-day convention stood out for its urgent focus on voting and the party's commitment to progressive values on issues like gun violence and climate change. Democrats targeted Trump's policies as dangerous, casting him as cruel in his treatment of immigrants, disinterested in the nation's climate crisis and over his head on virtually all of the nation's most pressing challenges.

At the same time, high-profile party figures spoke directly to women and all voters of color, whose energy this fall could ultimately decide the outcome.

Harris, a 55-year-old California senator and daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, addressed race and equality in a personal way Biden cannot when he formally accepts his party's presidential nomination on Thursday.

"There is no vaccine for racism. We have got to do the work," Harris said, her words emphatic though she was speaking in a largely empty arena near Biden's Delaware home.

"We've got to do the work to fulfill the promise of equal justice under law," she added. "None of us are free until all of us our free."

Just 76 days before the election, Biden faces the difficult task of energizing each of the disparate factions that make up the modern-day Democratic Party – a coalition that spans generation, race and ideology. And this fall voters must deal with concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic that has created health risks for those who want to vote in person.

Biden leads many polls, but his supporters report being motivated far more by antipathy toward Trump than genuine excitement about Biden, a 77-year-old white man who has spent nearly a half century in politics.

Democrats hope that Harris and Obama in particular can help bridge the divide between those reassured by Biden's establishment credentials and those craving bolder change.

The pandemic has forced Biden's team to abandon the traditional convention format in favor of an all-virtual affair that has eliminated much of the pomp and circumstance that typically defines political conventions.

And after two nights that featured several Republicans, Democrats on Wednesday emphasized their party's values on issues like climate change and gun violence, issues that particularly resonate with younger voters.

On guns, Biden wants to repeal a law shielding firearm manufacturers from liability lawsuits, impose universal background checks for purchases and ban the manufacture and sale of assault weapons and high capacity magazines. On climate, Biden has proposed a $2 trillion plan to invest in clean energy and end carbon emissions from U.S. power plants by 2035, even though his proposals don't go as far as activists' preferred "Green New Deal."

A face of the Democrats' support for gun control, former Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords reflected on her own journey of pain and recovery from a severe brain injury nearly a decade after being shot in the head while meeting with constituents. She urged America to support Biden.

"I struggle to speak, but I have not lost my voice," Giffords said. "Vote, vote, vote."

Next week it's Trump's turn.

The president, who abandoned plans to host his convention in North Carolina and Florida, is expected to break tradition and accept his nomination from the White House lawn.

Trump spent much of this week hosting campaign events in battleground states in an attempt to distract from the Democrats' virtual festivities. While he did not travel on Wednesday, the Republican president railed against Biden and his party at a press conference while praising a conspiracy theory group that claims Trump's opponents have links to satanism and child sex trafficking.

"We're saving the world from a radical left philosophy that will destroy this country," Trump said. "And when this country is gone, the rest of the world would follow."

Hyperbole and praise for far-right extremists has become a hallmark of Trump's presidency, which has inflamed tensions at home and alienated allies around the world.

Voting was a dominant theme for Democrats on Wednesday.

Harris insisted that Democrats to have a specific "voting plan" to overcome the obstacles raised by the coronavirus pandemic and postal slowdowns.

She warned that the nation is at a critical point,struggling under Trump's "chaos," "incompetence"and "callousness."

"We can do better and deserve so much more," Harris said. "We must elect a president who will bring something different, something better, and do the important work. A president who will bring all of us together—Black, White, Latino, Asian, Indigenous—to achieve the future we collectively want."

Progressives irked by spotlight on GOP at Dem convention

WASHINGTON (AP)—For nearly three minutes at this week's Democratic National Convention, Cindy McCain recounted Joe Biden's friendship with her late husband, John McCain, the Arizona senator and former Republican presidential candidate. Colin Powell, President George W. Bush's secretary of state, praised Biden for two minutes. Former GOP Govs. John Kasich of Ohio and Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey also got prominent speaking slots.

Meanwhile, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, one of the most dynamic young stars of the Democratic Party, spoke for just 60 seconds.

The GOP's prominent billing reflects one of Biden's core arguments in the closing months of the campaign: He can appeal to and work with Republicans to bring stability to a Washington paralyzed by the chaos of Donald Trump's presidency. But progressive Democrats seeking to exert influence over Biden argue that such outreach risks undermining the party's principles and harkens back to an era of bipartisan cooperation that no longer exists.

"It's fine for Republicans and Democrats to say we disagree on many issues, but Donald Trump is a threat to American democracy and we must join together to elect Joe Biden," said Adam Green, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "It's not OK for the Democratic convention to give more time to Republicans than Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, or to approve John Kasich's pre-taped video bashing the 'left' and implying that Joe Biden will not make good on the ambitious solutions he proposed in this crisis moment."

The political clout of progressives is debatable. After early setbacks, Biden took a commanding lead in the Democratic primary after voters rejected challengers from the left, including Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. And many progressives, including Sanders and Warren, say the threat of Trump's election is enough to fully unify them behind Biden.

But that doesn't mean there aren't rising tensions—and a convention leaning so heavily into Republican support for Biden is exacerbating them.

Ocasio-Cortez is seen by many as the future of the party, but may actually already be its present. The New York representative has already helped progressives win congressional primaries, including challenger Jamaal Bowman toppling longtime Rep. Eliot Engel in her home state's primary.

"She is one of the people who can cut through this medium and deliver a message very powerfully, so I feel like the DNC just missed one on that," former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang told Washington Post Live on Wednesday.

Waleed Shahid, spokesman for the progressive group Justice Democrats, described the convention so far as "boomer cringe," and said Democrats aren't effectively targeting young people and progressives who overwhelmingly didn't support Biden in the primary.

California Rep. Ro Khanna, head of the California delegation to the convention, said people need to be inspired to vote.

"The way I think we can do that is we've got such great progressive stars," Khanna said. "Let's get them out there. Let's get them engaged, let's showcase them. ... They can speak to that generation in very compelling ways."

Airtime isn't the only sticking point. The new Democratic platform approved at the convention does not call for an end to fossil fuel industry subsidies and tax breaks, nor does it make any mention of the sweeping "Green New Deal" proposals to combat climate change. That's despite Biden's campaign working for months with top Sanders advisers and supporters on "unity" task forces meant to incorporate some key progressive goals into the party platform.

The omission drew swift online condemnation from climate activists, but may have electoral benefits in battleground Pennsylvania, where the economy relies heavily on hydraulic fracturing.

Democratic National Committee spokeswoman Xochitl Hinojosa downplayed complaints about the convention being too Republican-heavy, telling Fox News Channel on Wednesday that her party would continue its message of "inclusion not exclusion."

Asia

623 virus cases linked to South Korea church

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—SEOUL, South Korea—South Korean health workers have found more than 600 coronavirus infections linked to a Seoul church led by a vocal opponent of the country's president as officials began restricting gatherings in the greater capital area amid fears that transmissions are getting out of control.

Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip said Wednesday that health authorities are also seeking location data provided by cellphone carriers while trying to track thousands who participated in an anti-government protest on Saturday, which worsened the virus's spread. The march was attended by members of the Sarang Jeil Church and its ultra-right pastor, Jun Kwang-hun, who has been hospitalized since Monday after testing positive.

Kwon Jun-wook, director of South Korea's National Health Institute, said 623 cases have been linked to church members after the completion of some 3,000 tests. Police are pursuing around 600 church members who remain out of contact.

Transmissions from the church have already spread through various places through the activities of members, including call centers, nursery homes and other churches.

AP

A medical worker takes samples from a police officer during COVID-19 testing at the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020.

The country on Wednesday reported 297 new cases of the virus, its biggest daily rise since March 8.

It was the sixth straight day the country reported daily increases in triple digits, with most of the cases coming from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area.

The main building of Seoul City Hall was shut down for disinfection Wednesday afternoon after an employee tested positive.

Officials have enforced stronger social distancing restrictions for Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi province and the city of Incheon, prohibiting gatherings of more than 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. Nightclubs, karaoke rooms, buffet restaurants, computer gaming cafes and other "high-risk" facilities will be shut, while churches will be required to conduct services online.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ India reported 1,092 new fatalities from COVID-19 on Wednesday, its highest single-day total. The country has the fourth-most deaths in the world and the third-most cases, with over 2.7 million—including more than 64,000 new infections reported Wednesday. The actual numbers, like elsewhere in the world, are thought to be far higher due to limited testing. Four of India's 28 states now account for 63% of total fatalities and 54.6% of the caseload. The western state of Maharashtra and the southern states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the country's worst-hit regions.

■ Authorities imposed a one-week lockdown in Nepal's capital and surrounding districts Wednesday after a surge in coronavirus cases. People are prohibited from leaving their homes, offices and businesses are closed and traffic halted except for essential and emergency movement. All outdoor religious activities and ceremonies are also not allowed. Violators face one month in jail and a fine of 500 rupees ($4). Nepal's 1,016 cases recorded Tuesday was its highest daily spike. Kathmandu had 205 of the new cases. A national lockdown imposed in March lasted for 120 days before being lifted last month. The country has confirmed 28,257 cases and 114 deaths from the coronavirus.

■ Australia has a deal to manufacture and distribute a potential coronavirus vaccine being developed by British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. "Under the deal, every single Australian will be able to receive the University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for free, should trials prove successful, safe and effective," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a statement. "If this vaccine proves successful, we will manufacture and supply vaccines straight away under our own steam and make it free for 25 million Australians," he said. The deal came as Australia's hard-hit Victoria state announced its lowest number of new coronavirus cases in more than five weeks. The Victoria state Health Department said Wednesday that 216 new virus cases and 12 deaths were reported in the latest 24-hour period.

Thai students jeer education minister as protests escalate

BANGKOK (AP)—Hundreds of high school students besieged Thailand's Ministry of Education and harangued and booed the education minister when he came to speak to them, in the latest in a growing series of anti-government protests.

The students demanded a better education and said the administration of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha was not competent to deliver it and should resign.

About 400 students wearing school uniforms with white ribbons, a symbol of the protest movement, joined in anti-government chants and gave three-fingered salutes, a sign of resistance to oppression borrowed from "The Hunger Games." Some tied white bows to the gates of the ministry.

When Education Minister Nataphol Teepsuwan and his aides appeared, a chorus of jeers rose from Wednesday's crowd. He tried to talk to some students near the front of the group, only to be roundly scolded and told he was late so should go to the back.

It was a remarkable response to an authority figure from students schooled in a system that stresses deference and respect for elders.

He did as instructed, going to the very back of the group, then sat down and listened patiently to those there, writing down their complaints and responding, while sweating heavily in the afternoon sun.

Six years ago, Nataphol took part in large-scale street protests that helped trigger the army coup that brought Prayuth to power. Some student protesters blew whistles as he spoke, a disruptive tactic his own movement had used in 2014.

"I'm happy that they dare to speak out and that they are interested in politics at this age, as long as their ideas are beneficial to the country," he said just before leaving. "They are the future and my future depends on them."

Many pupils seemed unimpressed, jeering him again and making thumbs-down gestures.

Protests at high schools began last week with students showing support on their campuses for a growing wave of anti-government demonstrations led by university students.

"If we carry on protesting just within our school grounds other people won't be aware of it. The wider we spread awareness the better for the cause," one 15-year-old said.

The student-led protests are becoming the most serious threat yet to Prayuth's rule. As army chief, he seized power in the 2014 military coup and then retained it in a 2019 election widely seen as rigged to all but guarantee his victory.

But with key Cabinet posts still in the hands of former generals, people are weary of the military's continuing influence on the running of the country and of Prayuth's leadership and performance.

The economy has struggled to compete with its neighbors, even before the heavy damage inflicted by measures to counter the coronavirus pandemic.

The administration's image has also been tarnished by corruption scandals for which no one has been held accountable.

The student protests have declared three core demands: holding new elections, amending the military-imposed constitution and ending the intimidation of critics of the government.

Protest leaders triggered controversy earlier this month when they expanded their original agenda, publicly criticizing Thailand's constitutional monarchy and issuing a 10-point manifesto calling for its reform.

Their action was virtually unprecedented, as the monarchy is considered sacrosanct and any criticism is normally kept private. A lese majeste law calls for a prison sentence of up to 15 years for anyone found guilty of defaming the king.

Japan's leader says hospital trip was just for checkup

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe brushed off lingering worries about his health Wednesday, saying he went to the hospital only for a checkup.

"I got a checkup a day before yesterday to make absolutely sure I'm healthy," he told reporters. "I'm getting back to work now, and I hope to keep working hard. Thank you."

He walked off, without responding to reporters' follow-up questions about the checkup.

Abe was seen Monday sitting in a car that drove into Keio University Hospital in Tokyo, then emerging several hours later. At that time, neither he nor his office made comments.

The visit raised a flurry of speculation in Japanese media about his health, coming after a top ruling party politician said publicly that Abe was overworked and needed rest.

Abe, 65, stepped down in 2007, during his earlier stint as prime minister, citing health problems, but was elected for the second time as leader in 2012.

He is the longest-serving prime minister in Japanese history. Japan is a nation known for having leaders serving relatively short periods, often resigning amid scandal.

World

Trump: US wants restoration of UN sanctions against Iran

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration is set to demand the restoration of all international sanctions on Iran in a move that will further isolate the U.S. at the United Nations, test the credibility of the U.N. Security Council and possibly deal a fatal blow to one of former President Barack Obama's signature foreign policy achievements.

At President Donald Trump's direction, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will travel to New York on Thursday to notify the world body that the U.S. is invoking the "snapback" mechanism in the Security Council resolution that endorsed the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"The United States intends to restore virtually all of the previously suspended United Nations sanctions on Iran," Trump said on Wednesday. "It's a snapback."

As set out by the resolution enshrining the 2015 deal, snapback would re-impose U.N. sanctions that were eased in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program. But the U.S. move faces steep opposition and could prompt a revolt from the council's other members. None of them believes the U.S. has the standing to do it because Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal two years ago.

AP
President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference at the White House, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, in Washington.

Thus, invoking snapback will set the stage for a contentious dispute at the world body with the U.S. insisting it has done something that no one else recognizes as valid. It's possible the U.S. call will simply be ignored by other U.N. members — an outcome that could call into question the Security Council's relevance and ability to enforce its own legally binding decisions.

But Trump and Pompeo have made no secret of their intention to pursue the controversial diplomatic move particularly in the wake of the administration's embarrassing defeat last week at the Security Council on extending the arms embargo on Iran that expires in October. The U.S. won just one other "yes" vote, with China and Russia opposed and the 11 other members abstaining.

As with the arms embargo, Russia and China bitterly oppose reimposing other U.N. sanctions on Iran. So do other Security Council members, including U.S. allies Britain and France, which are hoping to preserve the nuclear deal in the event Trump loses his bid for a second term in November's presidential election and his Democratic opponent Joe Biden rejoins the agreement.

The Europeans fear that the re-imposition of sanctions may prompt Iran to quit the nuclear deal entirely and plow ahead with efforts to develop atomic weapons. The Trump administration says it quit the deal precisely because it eased sanctions, opening major revenue streams for Iran while gradually easing restrictions on its nuclear activities that money could pay for.

Trump said that when the United States entered the deal, it was clear that the U.S. always would have the right to invoke a re-imposition of the U.N. sanctions. He also predicted that if he wins reelection, Iran will come begging to his administration to make a new deal.

New Mexico city to pay $6.5M in police chokehold settlement

A New Mexico city has agreed to pay $6.5 million to the family of Mexican American man who was choked to death by a police officer.

A settlement agreement made public this week by Las Cruces, New Mexico, calls for the city to pay the family of Antonio Valenzuela within 30 days and promises the local government will embark on various police reforms. Financial terms of the settlement were not previously disclosed.

Under the settlement, Las Cruces police agreed to ban all chokeholds and fire any officer who violates the new policy — something officials say the city already does. The city also must try to adopt a warning system involving officers who use excessive force and forge a policy so officers can undergo yearly mental health exams. Any police reforms must be approved by the city council.

Valenzuela, 40, had a warrant out for his arrest because of a parole violation and fought with officers who tried to detain him after he fled from a traffic stop in February.

After a chase, then-Las Cruces Officer Christopher Smelser applied the chokehold. Smelser, who is Hispanic, can be heard on police video saying, "I'm going to (expletive) choke you out, bro."

Valenzuela died at the scene. The coroner determined he died from asphyxial injuries and that he had methamphetamine in his system, which contributed to his death.

Smelser was later fired and faces a second-degree murder charge. He has not yet entered a plea.

Smelser's attorney, Amy L. Orlando, said Smelser had been trained to use the hold and the murder charge was a political move meant to grab headlines.

The charge came as Black Lives Matter protests swept the nation in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Demonstrators have put pressure on police departments to change policies involving the use of force and interactions with Black, Latino, and Native American residents.

The death of Valenzuela generated protests in Las Cruces, 46 miles (74 kilometers) north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Months later, there were renewed protests after Floyd's death. ***(AP)***

Russian opposition politician Navalny is poisoned, in ICU

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny was placed on a ventilator in a hospital intensive care unit in Siberia after falling ill from suspected poisoning during a flight, his spokeswoman said Thursday morning.

The 44-year-old foe of Russia's President Vladimir Putin felt unwell on a flight back to Moscow from Tomsk, a city in Siberia, Kira Yarmysh said on Twitter. "The plane made an emergency landing in Omsk. Alexei has a toxic poisoning," Yarmysh tweeted.

She told the Echo Moskvy radio station that Navalny was sweating and asked her to talk to him so that he could "focus on a sound of a voice." He then went to the bathroom and lost consciousness.

Yarmysh says the politician must have consumed something from the tea he drank this morning.

"Doctors are saying the toxin was absorbed quicker with hot liquid," she tweeted, adding that Navalny's team called police to the hospital.

The politician is in grave condition, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing the chief doctor at the hospital.

Last year, Navalny was rushed to a hospital from prison where he was serving a sentence following an administrative arrest, with what his team said was suspected poisoning. Doctors then said he had a severe allergic attack and discharged him back to prison the following day.

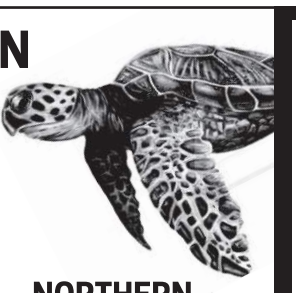
Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption has been exposing graft among government officials, including some at the highest level. Last month, the politician had to shut the foundation after a financially devastating lawsuit from Yevgeny Prigozhin, a businessman with close ties to the Kremlin.

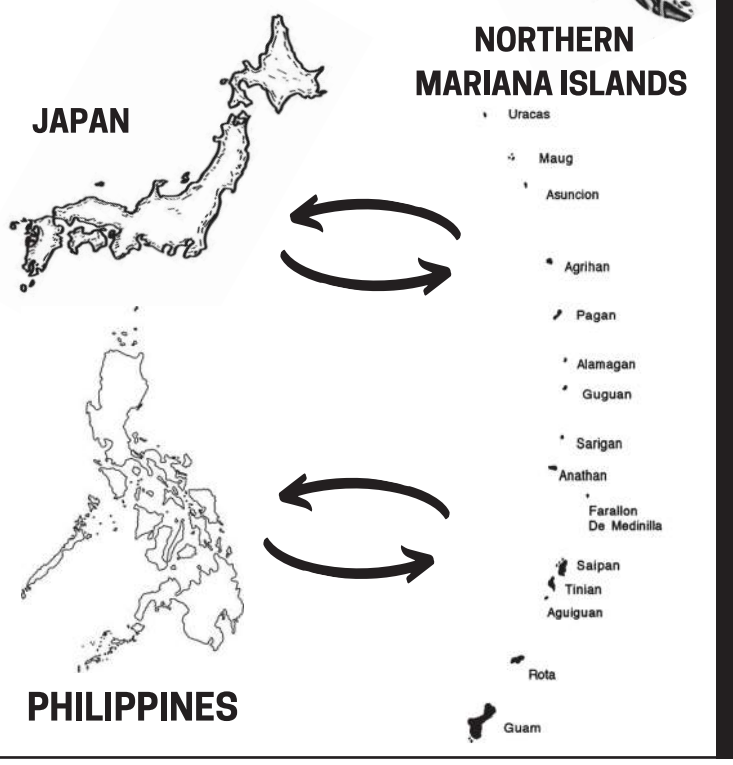
The most prominent member of Russia's opposition, Navalny campaigned to challenge Putin in the 2018 presidential election, but was barred from running.

He set up a network of campaign offices across Russia and has since been putting forward opposition candidates in regional elections, challenging members of Russia's ruling party, United Russia.

Like many other opposition politicians in Russia, Navalny has been frequently detained by law enforcement and harassed by pro-Kremlin groups. In 2017, he was attacked by several men who threw antiseptic in his face, damaging one eye.

SEA TURTLES ARE AN INTERNATIONALLY SHARED SPECIES.





After 20 years of research, we now know that green sea turtles in the Mariana Islands are strongly connected with the Southeast Asian region. After green sea turtles nest in CNMI and Guam, they migrate to their foraging habitats, which are primarily in Japan and Philippines. When it is time for them to reproduce and nest, they return back to the Marianas to lay their eggs once again.

CNMI DEPT. OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES

SEA TURTLE HOTLINE

Anonymous reports welcomed on poaching activities, related information, nests, tracks, & stranded sea turtles.

670-287-8537

Off The Wall

No fear of coronavirus at drive-thru haunted house

TOKYO (AP)—It's a living nightmare—but a socially distanced one.

"Zombies" attack vehicles, smearing them with artificial blood. But the customers inside the cars are safely separated from their stalkers by the windows.

Production company Kowagarasetai, roughly translated as Scare Squad, has launched a drive-through haunted house in Tokyo in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We have started this drive-in because we cannot get close to customers" at a traditional haunted house because of the virus, explains Daichi Ono, a cast member.

"But the distance (between customers and cast) has actually gotten shorter since there is only a window between them," he said.

Unlike a traditional haunted house, where guests can flee if frightened, customers are confined to their cars and cannot escape the horrors during the 13-minute performance.

With no actual contact between the audience and performers, the risk of transmitting the virus is virtually eliminated. And of course, inside their cars, customers can scream as loudly as they like.

Once the horror is over, instead of eating brains, these helpful zombies actually clean the blood off the cars they attacked just minutes earlier.

AP

One of the casts dressed as a zombie performs with fake blood splashed on a widow of a vehicle during a demonstration of a drive-in haunted house show at a garage Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, in Tokyo.

AP

Casts as zombies perform by the window of a vehicle during a demonstration of a drive-in haunted house show at a garage Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, in Tokyo.

AP

One of the casts dressed as a zombie cleans up fake blood on a widow of a vehicle during a demonstration of a drive-in haunted house show at a garage Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, in Tokyo.

AP

One of the casts dressed as a zombie performs with fake blood splashed on a widow of a vehicle during a demonstration of a drive-in haunted house show at a garage Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, in Tokyo.

Science & Technology

Apple reaches $2T market value as tech fortunes soar

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)—Apple has become the first U.S. company to boast a market value of $2 trillion as technology continues to reshape a world where smartphones are like appendages and digital services are like instruments orchestrating people's lives.

The iPhone maker reached the $2 trillion milestone in Wednesday's early stock market trading when its shares surpassed $467.77.

The stock later backtracked to close at $462.83, but it didn't diminish a remarkable achievement that came just two years after Apple became the first U.S. company with a $1 trillion market value. It comes amid a devastating pandemic that has shoved the economy into a deep recession and caused unemployment rates to soar to the worst levels since the Great Depression nearly a century ago.

But Apple and other well-established tech giants such as Microsoft, Google, Amazon, Facebook and Netflix have thrived during the upheaval as the pandemic has forced millions of people to work, attend classes, shop and entertain themselves at home. That, in turn, has made technology even more crucial, a factor that has caused investors to snap up the stocks of the industry's biggest players, as well as relative newcomers, such as video conferencing service Zoom, which has seen its shares quadruple so far this year.

Apple's stock has climbed nearly 58% this year. In recent weeks, the rally has been bolstered by excitement over a four-for-one stock split that Apple announced late last month in an effort to make its shares more affordable to a wider swath of investors.

Forget credit cards—now you can pay with your face

A new way to pay has arrived in Los Angeles: your face.

As so-called contactless payments rise in popularity during the pandemic, a Pasadena company called PopID is rolling out the nation's first payment system based on facial recognition at a smattering of restaurants near its headquarters, including mom-and-pop operations such as Daddy's Chicken Shack and regional chains such as Lemonade.

The system is simple: A customer signs up on their phone, takes a selfie and adds cash to their Pop Pay account from a credit card or bank account. When it comes time to pay for their meal, they look into the camera of a PopID tablet or kiosk (no smiling necessary), the cashier verifies their name, and money is withdrawn from the account.

For customers, the experience is eerily seamless, at least when it's functioning properly. (The software struggles at recognizing faces with masks.)

Eight cities in the U.S., including San Francisco, Oakland and Boston, have banned government use of the technology, arguing that the software is both too powerful a surveillance tool and too inaccurate when finding matches to be safely used by police. During the nationwide protests after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Microsoft, IBM and Amazon all committed not to sell their facial recognition technology to law enforcement, at least temporarily. And Portland, Ore., may soon become the first city to ban even private use of the technology. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

TECH Q&A: How to make Facebook 'let go' of an e-mail address

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Q: When I first signed up for Facebook, I gave my work e-mail. Later, I got a personal Gmail address and signed up for a second Facebook account that would be mine alone. But over the years, 99% of my Facebook activity has been on my "company" account. So, when I retire, I'd like to take the company Facebook account with me by switching it from my work e-mail address to my Gmail.

To do that, I deactivated my second Facebook account, thinking that would allow me to shift my Gmail address to my company account. But Facebook won't let me make the switch. I get an error message that says my Gmail is affiliated with another Facebook account. What can I do?

A: Facebook requires you to provide a different "primary" e-mail address for each Facebook account. But there are two ways to change which e-mail address goes with which account:

■ Delete your second Facebook account. That will "free up" your Gmail address so it can be used with your company Facebook account.

So far, you've only "deactivated" the second account. Under Facebook's rules, deactivation means the account still exists and can be reactivated at any time—which means the account still retains a hold on your Gmail address. But if you "delete" the second Facebook account, it will cease to exist and release your Gmail address. (To permanently delete a Facebook account, see tinyurl.com/ce438aa). Note that it will take Facebook 30 days to delete your second account. After that, you can add your Gmail address to your company Facebook account as the "primary" e-mail. (To add or delete a Facebook account's e-mail address, see tinyurl.com/yyfcmawt).

■ Keep both Facebook accounts, but change their e-mail addresses. To do that, create a new Gmail address. (Go to Gmail.com and click "use another account." On the next screen, click "create account.") Add this new address to your second Facebook account as the primary e-mail. Then delete your original Gmail address from the second Facebook account and add the address to your company Facebook account as the primary e-mail.

Life & Style

Netflix announces cast for 'Pinocchio' animated musical film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The cast for Netflix's new "Pinocchio" film has been chosen.

The streaming service announced Wednesday that newcomer Gregory Mann will assume the title role along with Ewan McGregor as Cricket and David Bradley as Geppetto. Oscar winner Guillermo del Toro will direct the stop-motion animated musical.

"After years of pursuing this dream project, I found my perfect partner in Netflix," del Toro said in a statement. "We have spent a long time curating a remarkable cast and crew and have been blessed by continuous support from Netflix to quietly and carefully soldier on, barely missing a beat."

Other cast members include Oscar winners Christoph Waltz, Tilda Swinton and Cate Blanchett. Finn Wolfhard, John Turturro, Tim Blake Nelson and Golden Globe winner Ron Perlman will have roles in the film.

"Pinocchio" will based on Carlo Collodi's tale. The musical will follow the journey of a wooden boy who is magically brought life by a puppetmaker's wish.

The story will be set during the rise of fascism in Mussolini's Italy. The film is set to debut in theaters and on Netflix.

NBC News deletes tweet that Ocasio-Cortez called misleading

Ocacio-Cortez

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News deleted a tweet early Wednesday about Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's brief speech at the Democratic National Convention that she complained was misleading and appalling.

The network's offending tweet said that "in one of the shortest speeches of the DNC, Rep. Ocasio-Cortez did not endorse Joe Biden." The tweet quoted the New York congresswoman seconding the nomination of Bernie Sanders, who amassed more than 1,000 delegates in his ultimately unsuccessful primary bid.

Ocasio-Cortez complained via Twitter that NBC's report didn't appear to recognize the purpose of her 90-second commentary: a "routine procedural motion" to salute Sanders' runner-up campaign.

In deleting the tweet and sending out a replacement, NBC said that its original report "should have included more detail on the nomination process."

That correction didn't satisfy Ocasio-Cortez, however.

"You waited several hours to correct your obvious and blatantly misleading tweet," she wrote in one tweet. "It sparked an enormous amount of hatred and vitriol, & now the misinfo you created is circulating on other networks."

In another tweet, she asked, "How are you going to fix the incredible amount of damage and misinformation that you are now responsible for? "Because a 1:15 a.m. tweet to slip under the radar after blowing up a false and divisive narrative across networks isn't it."

Still, there was nothing that prevented the congresswoman from mentioning Biden's name in her short address. She endorsed Biden after Sanders suspended his campaign and has said that defeating President Donald Trump is a "life and death issue" for her constituents. She sent a tweet Wednesday congratulating Biden on winning the Democratic Party nomination.

Lauren Hitt, a spokesperson for Ocasio-Cortez, said people who criticized the congresswoman for ignoring Biden in her speech were looking to create division when there wasn't any. She said that both Biden and Sanders representatives went over her speech before she recorded it.

"This is what the DNC asked us to do," Hitt said.

Detailed plans in place for careful removal of Lee statue

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—When the bronze equestrian statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee arrived by rail in Richmond from Paris in 1890, it took 10,000 men, women and children to haul its pieces more than a mile to the site where the towering monument was erected as a tribute to a Confederate hero.

Now, 130 years later, conservation experts who plan to relocate, yet preserve, the statue face the intricate logistics of disassembling and transporting it to a storage facility. They must also ensure worker safety amid heated public debate over whether the statue is an important piece of Southern heritage or a symbol of white supremacy and racism.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced plans to remove the 13-ton (12-metric ton) sculpture in June, after the death of George Floyd sparked a nationwide protest movement over racial inequality and police brutality. Floyd, a Black man, died in May after a white Minneapolis police officer put his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes.

The plan to remove the monument—an imposing, 21-foot (6.4-meter) tall bronze likeness of Lee on a horse that sits atop a granite pedestal nearly twice that high—has been halted at least temporarily by a lawsuit. But Northam has vowed to quickly take down the state-owned statue if and when a judge lifts an injunction barring its removal.

Now covered by graffiti, the Lee monument has become the epicenter of the protest movement in Richmond, a former capital of the Confederacy that has moved slowly in shedding vestiges of its past. Four other city-owned Confederate statues on Richmond's historic Monument Avenue were taken down last month in response to sometimes-violent protests.

B.R. Howard Conservation, a Pennsylvania company that specializes in art conservation and historic preservation projects, has developed a plan that calls for removing 16 bronze pins to separate the statue from its base, removing the harness and reins of Lee's horse, then attaching padded straps and using a crane to lift it and lower it to the ground.

Appeals court rules Spanish museum can keep looted Nazi art

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A U.S. appeals court has ruled that a Camille Pissarro painting a Jewish woman traded to the Nazis to escape the Holocaust in 1939 may remain the property of a Spanish museum that acquired it more than a half-century later.

The unanimous ruling issued Monday by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is the latest—but possibly not the last—in a case that has wound through the courts of Spain and the United States for 20 years.

At stake is "La Rue St. Honoré, effet de Soleil, Après-Midi, 1898," an oil-on-canvas work of a rain-swept Paris street that Pissarro painted as he gazed at the scene from his hotel window. Its value has been estimated at $30 million.

Lilly Cassirer's father-in-law bought it directly from Pissarro's art dealer and left it to her and her husband when he died. In 1939, she traded it to the Nazis in exchange for exit visas for herself, her husband and her grandson, who eventually settled in the U.S. Her great-grandson, David Cassirer of San Diego, has continued the litigation since his father's death.

Neither Cassirer's heirs nor Spain's Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum dispute the painting's early history.

What's at issue all these years later is whether Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza made any serious effort to determine the painting was looted art when he acquired it from a New York gallery owner for $275,000 in 1976.

Also whether Spanish curators did their due diligence in tracing its provenance when a Spanish nonprofit foundation acquired it and hundreds of other paintings from the baron's collection in 1992 and created the Madrid museum that bears his name.

Lilly Cassirer's heirs say she spent years trying to recover the painting before concluding it was lost and accepting $13,000 in reparations from the German government in 1958.

Man's affair with neighbor reaches a moment of truth

DEAR ABBY: Last night I visited my 47-year-old son. After a 23-year marriage, he is going through a nasty divorce. While I was there, he asked my opinion about what he should do regarding a "situation."

A 62-year-old female divorced neighbor, who looks much younger, befriended him, and they've been having sex and spending time together for several months. She hasn't been in any relationships for two years.

He told her he's not interested in a permanent relationship because he's still not in a good emotional place, but he told me the real reason is their age difference. She told him she wants to continue, hoping it will lead to something permanent. He wants to be friends with benefits but doesn't want to hurt her feelings by telling her this.

He's a decent guy and feels he's being deceptive. I suggested he be honest and tell her it's because of the age difference. What do you recommend?

MOM IN THE MIDDLE

DEAR MOM: Does your son think it will hurt the woman's feelings less if he monopolizes her for months—or more—and breaks the news later? For some people, a 15-year age difference is no big deal. But the longer this arrangement continues, the more hurt she will be when she finds out how much it matters to him.

I agree with you. Honesty is the best policy. And you know what? If she's as worldly as I suspect she may be, she may agree to continue the arrangement just the way it is.

DEAR ABBY: I am a quilter. I have created hundreds of quilts as gifts for friends and family over the last 30 years.

Earlier this year, my husband's uncle passed away, and my mother-in-law brought his quilt over and gave it back to me. When my mother passed recently, I was given her quilt back, too. Looking at them makes me sad, but I can't bear to just throw them away.

My question is, what do I do with them? And what can I say to people about not returning these gifts I made without hurting their feelings at the time they've lost their loved ones?

HURT IN CALIFORNIA

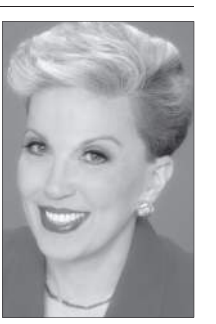
DEAR HURT: This is the first I have heard about returning personal gifts to the givers after someone passes away, and frankly, I am surprised. I wonder if the same would be true of gifts of expensive jewelry or clothing?

If it happens again, all you have to say is how sorry you are for the person's loss but that you don't "need" the quilt back and suggest it be donated to a hospital, nursing home, senior center or orphanage. Consider contacting a local church for information on where they might be needed.

As to what to say to these grieving relatives, remember that when a gift is given, it is the recipient's—or the recipient's survivors—to do with as they wish. Try not to take it so personally.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: What do you say to a guy who resurfaces 10 months after our first encounter and wants to know if I want to "see" him again? He didn't mention going to dinner or a movie or anything—just seeing each other every 10 days or so.

UNDECIDED IN FLORIDA

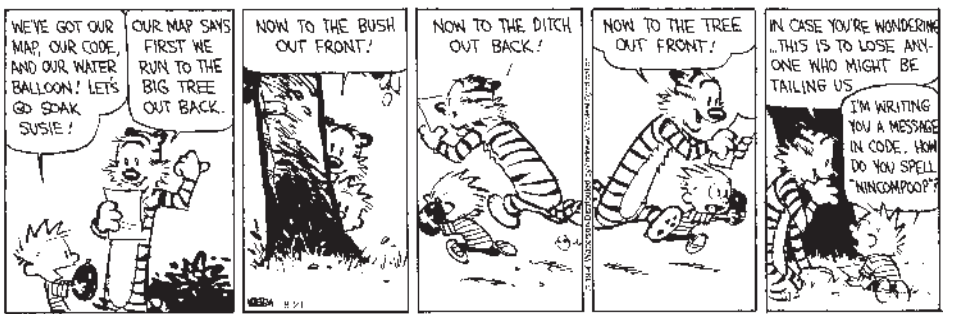
DEAR UNDECIDED: I'm not you, but this is what I would say: "What do you have in mind? A hike? A picnic at the beach? A socially distanced dinner?" And if his answer isn't something more than getting together for sex, I'd pass.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

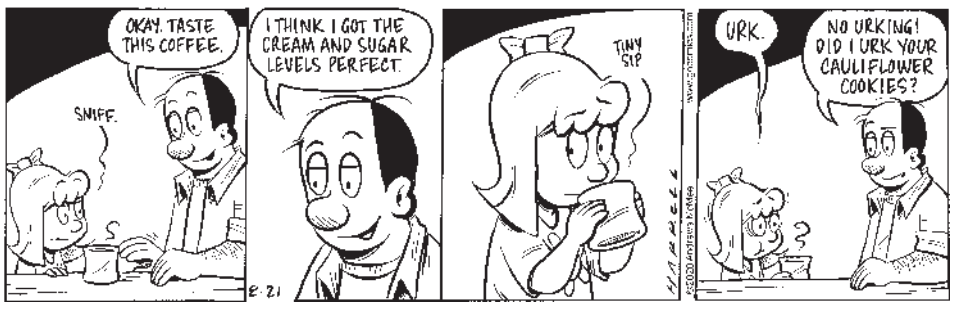

WE'VE GOT OUR MAP, OUR CODE, AND OUR WATER BALLOON! LET'S GO SOAK SUSIE!
OUR MAP SAYS FIRST WE RUN TO THE BIG TREE OUT BACK.
NOW TO THE BUSH OUT FRONT!
NOW TO THE DITCH OUT BACK!
NOW TO THE TREE OUT FRONT!
IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING ...THIS IS TO LOSE ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE TAILING US.
I'M WRITING YOU A MESSAGE IN CODE. HOW DO YOU SPELL "NINCOMPOOP"?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. TASTE THIS COFFEE.
SNIFF.
I THINK I GOT THE CREAM AND SUGAR LEVELS PERFECT.
TINY SIP
URK.
NO URKING! DID I URK YOUR CAULIFLOWER COOKIES?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WE SHOULD BUY A BUNCH OF BROCCOLI AND LETTUCE.
YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO EAT HEALTHY?
NO, I NEED SOMETHING TO HIDE THE BEER BEHIND FOR WHEN ELVIN COMES OVER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

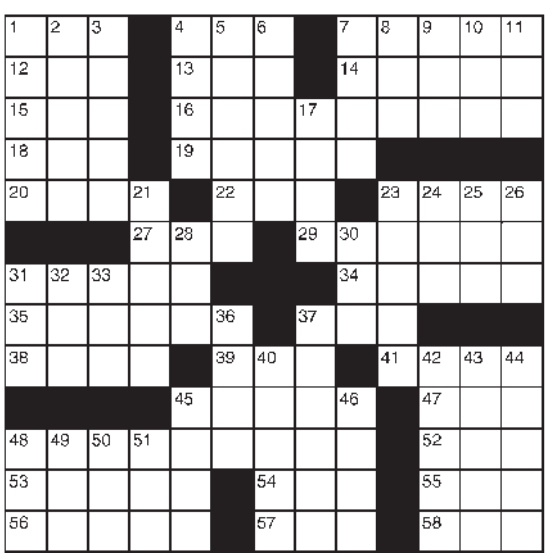
ACROSS
1 Gridlock
4 Wager
7 Names in a will
12 Docs' org.
13 Blunder
14 "The Jetsons" boy
15 Guest's bed
16 Phone message
18 Scrap
19 Relinquish
20 Tavern order
22 Hit CBS series
23 Sugar or starch, for short
27 Clean air org.
29 Imitate
31 Temple leader
34 Reeves of "Speed"
35 Chirps
37 "Cheers" bartender
38 Mideast airline
39 Napkin's place
41 Taj Mahal city
45 Native Israeli
47 Suffix with human or fact
48 Postal delivery, informally
52 Movie format
53 Insurance giant
54 — -Cat
55 Author Harper
56 You'll get a rise out of it
57 Tours season
58 Since Jan. 1

DOWN
1 Esau's brother
2 Love, Italian-style
3 Not glossy
4 Group of quail
5 Beethoven's Third
6 Samples
7 Obey
8 Stately tree
9 A Gershwin brother
10 Marseilles monarch
11 Wd. division
17 Film fragment
21 Defy authority
23 Espresso foam
24 Notre Dame's Parseghian
25 Director Howard
26 A/C measure
28 Deep hole
30 Alias abbr.
31 GPS suggestion
32 Piercing tool
33 Arthur of "Maude"
36 Bridge coup
37 Quick run
40 Humiliate
42 Pious
43 Metal fastener
44 Threw in
45 Venetian blind part
46 Skin soother
48 Utter
49 Formerly called
50 — standstill
51 Connections

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	U	R		D	E	L	I		P	L	E	D
A	R	I		O	R	A	N		R	O	L	E
R	I	P	C	O	R	D	S		O	G	L	E
		T	A	D		S	U	N	B	E	A	M
F	I	L	L	Y		M	I	L				
L	I	D		E	O	N		L	E	G	A	L
C	M	E	N		N	E	T		M	E	M	E
E	S	S	A	Y		D	I	P		T	O	V
			T	E	N		S	L	G	A	R	Y
V	I	S		T	C	D		K	A	G		
C	R	E	O		H	E	A	D	T	R	I	P
I	M	A	N		R	A	V	I		I	M	O
D	A	M	S		U	N	I	T		P	S	T

Yesterday's answer 8-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Panettiere, 31; Usain Bolt, 34; Carrie-Anne Moss, 53; Kim Cattrall, 64.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative to update your skills, knowledge and technology this year. The more you have to offer, the better. Don't limit what you can do; exploring the possibilities and the prospects that surface will encourage you to set higher goals and standards. The information you receive on your quest for a better future will be enlightening and life-altering. Your numbers are 5, 13, 19, 22, 32, 36, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be careful how you treat sensitive issues. Someone close to you will be easily hurt if you are too vocal about the way you feel. Ease into personal matters with kindness and consideration in order to avoid getting into a fight. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An emotional incident will lead to a change of heart. Do what's best for you, and you will have no regrets. A personal change will be the pick-me-up you need to improve your attitude. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Keep busy, and you'll avoid trouble. If you stretch the truth, someone who knows the facts will be eager to question you. Work on self-improvement, not trying to change others. Avoid temptation and untrustworthy people. Be kind to yourself, and strive for a healthier lifestyle. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't act in haste. It's in your best interest to assess a situation, look for solutions and do whatever is necessary to make things better. Anger is not the answer if you want to resolve a pending problem. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't dismiss a change before you check it out. Embrace new possibilities, and you'll find a way to make whatever is happening around you beneficial. A steady pace and open mind will help you gain confidence as well as support. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change of pace will be revitalizing. Make unique plans with someone who puts a smile on your face. A kind gesture will make a difference to someone going through a hard time and make you feel good as well. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Set goals, high standards and expectations that make you feel proud. Refuse to let anyone deter you from concentrating on what's important to you. An opportunity to make changes at home conducive to getting ahead at work should be put in motion. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* How you help others will determine what you will get in return. Being cooperative and doing what's best will give you leverage when you want to bring about change. Don't labor over the impossible; forge ahead with what's doable. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Learn something new. An open mind and a desire to make a difference will help you incorporate positive changes that encourage you to let go of the past. Don't let an emotional matter stop you from making progress. 4 stars

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your emotions under control, and you'll avoid getting into a spat with a friend, relative or one of your business associates. Look for personal opportunities that will help you update your attitude, image or lifestyle. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Pay attention to how much you spend, eat or take on physically. Moderation will be essential if you want to reduce situations that bring you down. Aim to look and feel your best, and you will find it easier to resist temptation. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Extending a helping hand has to be for the right reason. If you have ulterior motives, you will be disappointed with the results. Put greater emphasis on using your imagination and delving into creative projects. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are logical, productive and helpful. You are philosophical and astute.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	5			
	2			7		
8	4		9	5	1	
6						8
	7		5	2		
3						5
	7	5		1	6	
	9			8		
		8	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	1	3	4	8	5	7	6	2
4	2	5	6	3	7	1	8	9
8	7	6	2	1	9	5	3	4
7	3	9	1	2	6	4	5	8
5	6	4	3	9	8	2	1	7
1	8	2	5	7	4	6	9	3
3	4	8	7	6	1	9	2	5
6	9	7	8	5	2	3	4	1
2	5	1	9	4	3	8	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CANCELLATION FEES — Solution: 10 letters

T	I	E	L	B	I	G	I	L	E	N	I	L	N	O
I	N	D	S	E	L	I	F	E	T	S	O	H	G	N
S	S	E	E	M	I	T	L	S	A	E	W	U	A	O
O	U	C	M	P	A	N	I	A	D	T	N	N	U	I
P	R	T	H	T	A	E	G	H	N	I	E	O	T	T
E	A	O	C	A	N	R	H	C	U	S	R	I	O	A
D	N	M	R	A	R	I	T	R	F	B	D	T	M	R
E	C	O	O	T	R	G	O	U	E	E	E	A	O	T
D	E	N	T	I	S	T	E	P	R	W	D	V	T	S
R	C	E	C	C	A	N	N	C	P	E	U	R	I	I
H	I	Y	O	K	L	E	T	O	H	A	C	E	V	N
O	R	T	D	E	S	I	U	R	Ⓒ	E	T	S	E	I
U	P	A	E	T	U	P	S	I	D	Ⓞ	T	E	R	M
R	Y	C	I	L	O	P	A	R	K	S	Ⓢ	R	E	D
S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	G	U	E	S	Ⓣ	S	A

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderwordcom 8/21

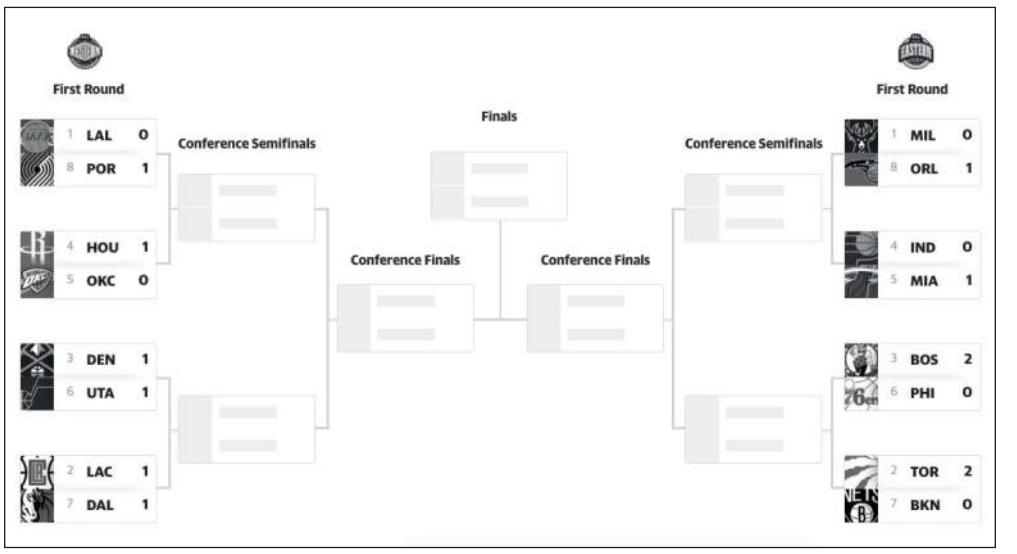
Administration, Appointment, Automotive, Business, Charge, Contract, Cost, Credit, Cruise, Date, Days, Deduct, Dentist, Departure, Deposit, Dispute, Doctor, Eligible, Files, Flight, Guest, Host, Hotel, Hours, Insurance, Money, Online, Owner, Parks, Phone, Policy, Price, Purchase, Refund, Rent, Reservation, Term, Ticket, Time, Website

Yesterday's Answer: Nonsense

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Celtics rout 76ers to take 2-0 series lead

Jayson Tatum, left, of the Boston Celtics shoots against Joel Embiid, right, of the Philadelphia 76ers during the first half of Game 2 of an NBA first-round playoff series, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. AP



FLORIDA (AP)—Jayson Tatum scored 33 points and the Boston Celtics beat the Philadelphia 76ers 128-101 on Wednesday night to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

Tatum had a career playoff high for the second straight game after scoring 32 points in the opener Monday.

"I'm playing confident," Tatum said. "Just trying to be aggressive and trying to make the right play. I say that a lot, but that's as easy as I can break it down."

Kemba Walker added 22 points and Jaylen Brown had 20 for the Celtics, who shot 51% from the field.

"I think it got deflating when their shot makers went bananas," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "I'm not going to scold their (76ers) effort. I think you've got to shake their hands—the Celtics—on some of the shots."

Joel Embiid had 34 points and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia, and Josh Richardson added 18 points.

"It's a long series," Embiid said. "We've got a long way to go. Obviously, this was a tough one tonight. We've got to lock in and get ready for Game 3."

The Celtics lost starting forward Gordon Hayward to a right ankle sprain in Game 1 and expect him to be out for approximately four weeks.

The 76ers led by 14 in the first quarter, but the Celtics rallied to lead 65-57 at halftime. Boston coach Brad Stevens gave the reserves credit.

"Our bench took a game that was not going our way and changed it," he said.

Brown's 360-degree dunk with just under eight minutes left in the third quarter put the Celtics up 74-59. Boston extended its lead to 98-75 at the end of the period. The Celtics held the 76ers to 22% shooting in the quarter.

Brett Brown remained confident in his team.

"You make sure that you hold the spirit of the locker room," he said. "You make sure that the group understands that there's enough character and enough talent in the room to regroup."

Mavericks 127, Clippers 114

Luka Doncic scored 28 points and the Dallas Mavericks put together the pivotal run when he was out to beat the Los Angeles Clippers and even the Western Conference playoff series at a game apiece.

Two nights after scoring 42 points in the highest-scoring debut in postseason history, Doncic played just nine minutes in the second half. He finished with eight rebounds and seven assists.

Kristaps Porzingis added 23 points for the Mavericks. They beat the Clippers for the first time in five meetings this season and earned their first playoff victory since 2016.

Kawhi Leonard had 35 points and 10 rebounds, but Paul George had a mostly miserable performance for the second-seeded Clippers. They played without starting guard Patrick Beverley because of a calf injury.

Doncic picked up his fourth foul less than a minute into the third quarter, shaking his finger toward the Dallas bench that he didn't want to come out.

When he did come out toward the end of the period, Dallas put together a strong stretch of basketball. A finishing 14-4 spurt made it 98-85 entering the fourth, the Mavs pushed the lead to 18 in the final 12 minutes.

Reserves Trey Burke, Seth Curry and Boban Marjanovic were all in double figures for the Mavs, who shot 50% from the field.

George finished 4 for 17 for 14 points.

Game 3 is Friday.

Jazz 124, Nuggets 105

Donovan Mitchell scored 21 of his 30 points in a big third quarter and Utah beat Denver to even the series at a game apiece.

Mitchell was 10 of 14 from the floor. He helped the Jazz break open the game in the third quarter and increase the lead to 31 in the fourth.

His performance was on the heels of scoring a Jazz playoff-record 57 points in a 135-125 overtime loss in Game 1. Mitchell was the focus of Denver's defense, which helped open up other avenues for teammates.

Jordan Clarkson scored a personal playoff-best 26 points on a day the Jazz shot 51.7% from the floor. They also had 32 assists and hit 20 3-pointers.

Game 3 is Friday.

Nuggets rookie Michael Porter Jr. had 28 points, and Nikola Jokic added 28 points and 11 rebounds.

Raptors 104, Nets 99

Fred VanVleet had 24 points and 10 assists, Norman Powell had a big game off the bench with 24 points and defending NBA champion Toronto beat Brooklyn to take a 2-0 series lead.

Kyle Lowry had 21 points, nine rebounds and forced a big turnover in the closing seconds for the second seeded Raptors. Garrett Temple led the Nets with 21 points, and Caris LeVert had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Westbrook's return uncertain

FLORIDA—Houston Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni doesn't know when Russell Westbrook will rejoin the team while dealing with a strained quadricep.

In fact, "nobody knows."

"I don't know how long it's going to take, and if it's going to take a little bit," D'Antoni said. "He's been working hard and is feeling better everyday. The images are looking better, but I think it's too early to say how many days he's out. Nobody knows."

Westbrook first hurt his quad in the third game of the NBA restart, though he returned a week later. After playing 28 minutes in his return, Westbrook felt sore the next day. An MRI then found the strain in his quad, and he hasn't returned since. He's averaged 27.2 points and 7.9 rebounds per game this season with the Rockets, his first with the team after spending his first 11 NBA seasons with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

The 31-year-old underwent an MRI on Tuesday, D'Antoni said, and "feels a lot better." He's done some conditioning drills and exercises and is attending team practices, too.

Whether he'll be ready for Game 2 of their opening-round playoff series against the Thunder on Thursday—or the rest of the series, for that matter—remains to be seen.

"Just keep strengthening it and he'll go a little bit on how he feels," D'Antoni said, via USA Today. "I'm sure the next step will be on the court at some point. I don't want to be negative. Nobody knows if it's just two days, four or five days. Nobody knows yet. The thigh will tell him that, but he is progressing."

Bubble woes

The Los Angeles Lakers have a considerable shooting problem. Their first-round opponent is arguably the hottest team in the NBA's Disney bubble and happens to have the best 3-point shooting percentage (42.2) of all 16 playoff teams.

Conversely, the Lakers have been atrocious from beyond the arc during the restart. They were already a bottom five team in that department before teams migrated to Orlando, but now they're laying so many bricks that Newark, New Jersey, might need a new nickname.

The Portland Trail Blazers stole Game 1 on Tuesday night, winning 100-93 with Damian Lillard pouring in a game-high 34 points on 6-of-13 3-point shooting. CJ McCollum chipped in 21 points. Portland was 13-of-34 on threes (38.2 percent); Los Angeles shot 5-of-32 (15.6 percent).

LeBron James finished with 23 points, 17 rebounds and 16 assists.

"We're getting good looks. It's just a matter of taking our time and knocking them down," Anthony Davis said. "That's been our whole little M.O. in the restart, not being able to consistently knock down the three-ball. We shot like 15 percent tonight. We have to make sure that when the ball comes to us, we take our time and knock down the shot. That's the only way we're going to clear that paint. Guys are sinking in the paint and daring us to make shots, and right now we're not doing that. It's just making it tough on everybody."

As Davis mentioned, the shooting woes precede Tuesday's contest.

The Lakers weren't a good 3-point shooting team this season. They were 26th in the league at 32.6 percent when play was suspended in March. But in the last nine games, which include the eight seeding games and the opening playoff game, they're dead last at 28.6 percent.

In that span, Danny Green has shot 9-of-37 (24.3 percent), Kentavious Caldwell-Pope is 5-of-23 (21 percent), and Alex Caruso is 2-of-16 (12.5 percent).

Davis was 0-for-5 and James was 1-for-5 from deep on Tuesday night, but that's not their primary responsibility. ***(AP/NBC)***

Bayern to play PSG in Champions League final

AP
Lyon's goalkeeper Anthony Lopes tries to stop Bayern's Robert Lewandowski during the Champions League semifinal soccer match at the Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon, Portugal, Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020.

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—The Champions League final will finally be a meeting of champions again.

Bayern Munich made sure the title match will live up to the competition's name by beating Lyon 3-0 on Wednesday, setting up a final against Paris Saint-Germain.

It's the first time in 22 years that the final will feature two teams who qualified as domestic league champions.

Lyon wasted a couple of early chances and was then overwhelmed by the clinical Bavarian powerhouse, the competition's highest-scoring team which was coming off an 8-2 win over Barcelona in the quarterfinals.

Serge Gnabry netted twice before Robert Lewandowski added a later header, giving that duo a combined 24 Champions League goals this season, part of Bayern's total haul of 42. Lewandowski has now scored in nine consecutive Champions League games, and has 55 goals overall for the season. And it wrapped up a 20th successive victory in all competitions for Bayern.

PSG as a team only has 25 goals in the competition this season.

"We will look to organize our defense, but we know our biggest strength is putting our opponents under pressure," Bayern coach Hansi Flick said.

In 35 games since Flick was promoted to manager in November after Niko Kovac's firing, he won 32 of them to steer Bayern from fourth place in the Bundesliga, to German Cup glory and into a first continental final since lifting the European Cup in 2013.

Sunday's game at Benfica's stadium will be the first time since Real Madrid faced Juventus in 1998 that two domestic champions met in the final.

"For now we celebrate a little bit," Bayern midfielder Alphonso Davies said. "But afterwards we focus on the next game. It's going to be a good game, there's going to be goals in it."

The loss for Lyon, in its first Champions League semifinal in a decade, cuts out the last route back into European competitions next season.

After only finishing seventh in the curtailed Ligue 1 season and being beaten in the French League Cup final by PSG, Lyon will be out of Europe for the first time since the 1996-97 season.

Back on the field where it knocked out Manchester City on Saturday, Lyon was made to pay for the squandering its opportunities to take the lead after finding more space in the Bayern defense than Barcelona, which was thrashed 8-2 on Friday.

Memphis Depay hit the side netting in the fifth minute with only goalkeeper-Manuel Neuer to beat from a tight angle and Karl Toko Ekambi hit the right post.

"I don't think we can have any regrets ... because we had two big chances," Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes said. "We could have been 2-0 up. In these top-level matches you pay for not taking your chances though."

Just a minute after the post denied Lyon the opener, Gnabry brushed aside several challenges as he cut in from the right and powered in a shot into the top corner in the 18th minute.

"The first couple of minutes we struggled a little bit," he said. "My goal came at the right time to give us a bit of confidence."

His threat was evident across the pitch at the Sporting stadium in Lisbon, driving forward with the ball for the move that led to the second goal.

After releasing Ivan Perisic on the left wing, the ball was squared into the penalty area. Lewandowski's sliding connection was blocked by Lopes but Gnabry was on hand to knock in the second in the 33rd.

It extended Gnabry's hot scoring streak to nine goals across nine games in this season's pandemic-disrupted Champions League.

US could open WCup qualifying in Trinidad, site of '17 loss

NEW YORK (AP)—The United States could start qualifying for the 2022 World Cup in Trinidad, where the Americans flopped on the final night three years ago and failed to reach the 2018 tournament.

"We know what happened last time around, and it could just be an opportunity for us to go out, start really strong right away and obviously get some revenge there, as well," star attacker Christian Pulisic said after Wednesday's draw. "So that would be a really big game."

The Americans open their 14-match round with four games next June and close in early 2022 with a difficult stretch. They are at Mexico on Feb. 1, 2022, probably in the altitude of Mexico City's Estadio Azteca; play at home on March 25, most likely against Panama or Curacao, then finish March 29 at Costa Rica, where they have lost seven straight qualifiers.

"You have 11 games before that to get the group used to playing in these qualifying games and then you have two of the harder opponents away from home," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "The other way to look at it is if you can take care of all your business beforehand, you could be a very good position going in those games."

The U.S. qualified for seven straight World Cups before missing the 2018 tournament. The Americans are among five nations with direct berths in the final round of North and Central American and Caribbean qualifying—known as the octagonal—joined by Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras and Jamaica.

A much transformed team is headed by Pulisic and could include goalkeeper Zack Steffen, defender Sergino Dest, midfielders Weston McKennie, Tyler Adams and Gio Reyna, and forward Josh Sargent.

Defender Tim Ream recalled the opening home loss to Mexico followed by a 4-0 defeat at Costa Rica in the last hexagonal and predicted the new group will handle qualifying more adroitly. Even though he was 30 at the time of the October 2017 defeat at Couva, Trinidad, Ream remembered being one of the younger American players on the bench.

"You look at these guys who are 21, 22 years old, and they've brought a youthfulness, an exuberance into the team and with the youthfulness brings legs, it brings energy, it brings excitement," he said. "First time around, we didn't get off on the right foot, obviously, in the beginning of qualifying and we were always playing catch up. So I think with these young guys now, we're looking to be on top from the very first game."

The top three nations in the octagonal qualify for the 32-team tournament in Qatar that starts Nov. 21, 2022, the first World Cup shifted from its traditional late May-June start in an accommodation to the region's summer heat. The fourth-place team advances to a two-leg intercontinental playoff in June 2022.

Dela Hoya coming out of retirement

NEW YORK—Oscar De La Hoya is tired of just talking the talk.

The Olympic gold medalist and former world champion boxer-turned promoter announced on Wednesday his intent to return to the ring. The 47-year-old has not boxed competitively since 2008 when he retired following a loss to Manny Pacquiao at 36 years old.

"The rumors are true, and I'm going to start sparring in the next few weeks," De La Hoya told ESPN.

Who will he fight? That remains unknown. But De La Hoya said that the fight will not be an exhibition like Mike Tyson's planned fight against Roy Jones Jr. This one will be for the record.

"It's a real fight," De La Hoya said. "I miss being in the ring, I love boxing. Boxing is what gave me everything I have today, and I just miss it."

He said that he'll take on "any top guy" and fight at super welterweight or middleweight (154-160 pounds). That puts him in a class with Gennadiy Golovkin and client Canelo Alvarez. He'll certainly have to set his sights a little lower.

De La Hoya has spent his time in retirement running Golden Boy Promotions. He's also battled drug and alcohol addiction and done his sparring verbally with UFC president Dana White. Getting back in boxing shape in his late 40s will be no simple task.

De La Hoya made his name with a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics at 19 years old. He went on to a prolific professional career, winning 10 world championships across six weight classes while compiling a 39-6 record with 30 KOs. He won his first 31 professional fights.

He remains one of the biggest names in the sport and would undoubtedly be a draw in his return.

"Look, it's been a long time, yes," De La Hoya said. "But actually my jab feels faster than ever. I have to make sure that my conditioning is perfect, my health is good. And that's going to take place in the next few weeks. So we'll see." ***(NBC)***

Red Sox snap 9-game skid, top Phillies

BOSTON (AP) — Stuck in a nine-game skid, the Boston Red Sox quickly seemed to be heading toward loss No. 10.

Especially after rookie Kyle Hart issued a pair of four-pitch walks, loading the bases for the high-scoring Philadelphia Phillies with no outs in the first inning.

But Hart managed to escape without too much damage and the Red Sox recovered to beat the Phillies 6-3 Wednesday.

"It's amazing how good a win feels," Red Sox manager Ron Roenicke said on his 64th birthday. "We did a lot of things right today, and that was really good to see."

Rafael Devers had a two-run homer and drove in three runs. Jackie Bradley Jr. drove in two runs to help Boston avoid its first 10-game losing streak since 2014.

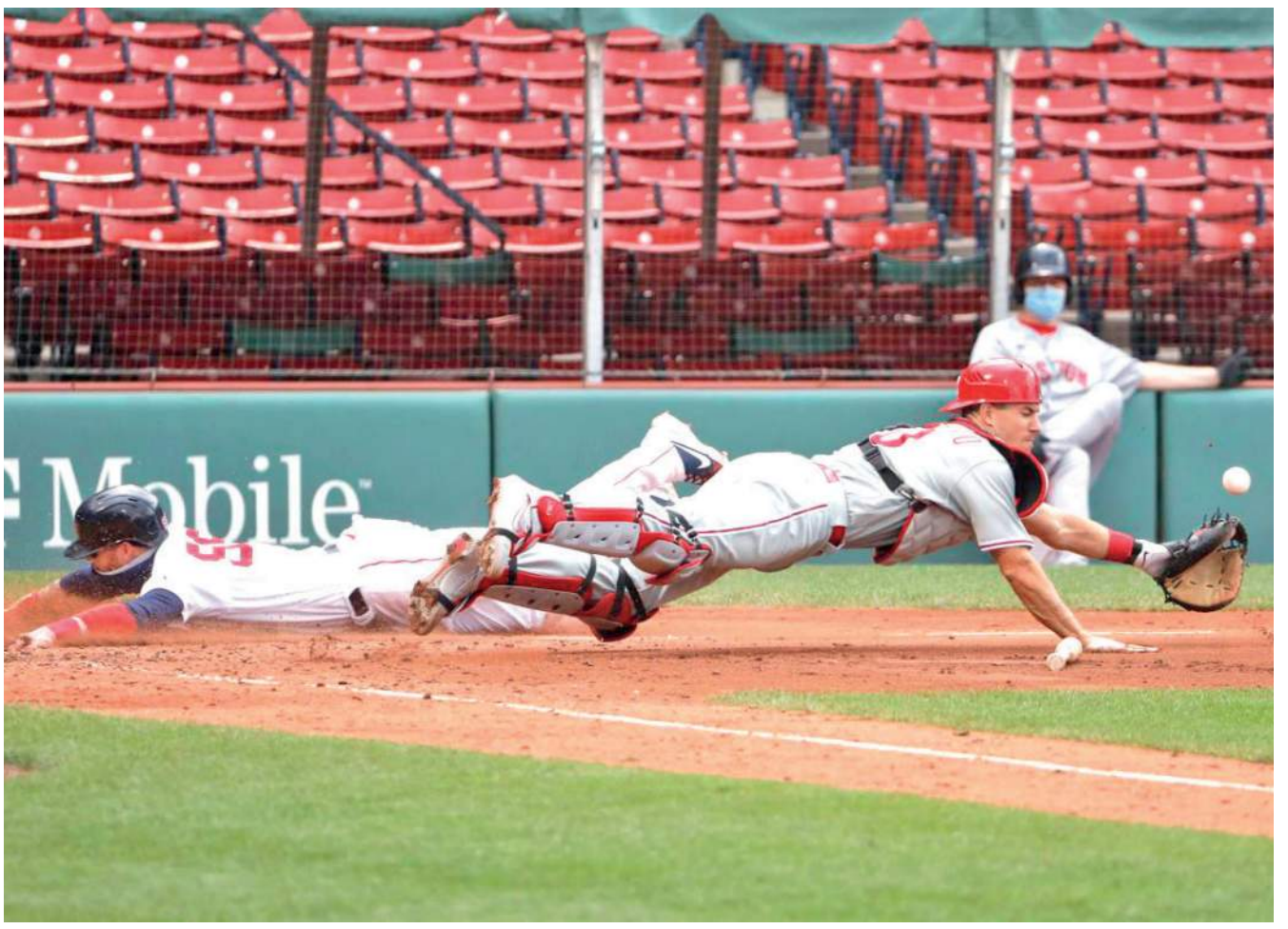
The Red Sox began the day with the AL's worst record at 6-18.

Hart allowed two runs with four walks and five strikeouts over 3 2/3 innings in an opener role. The 27-year-old gave up seven runs in two innings in his major league debut against Tampa Bay last Thursday.

"There was some improvement," Hart said. "As a whole, really pleased that we were able to win and that, as poorly as I started, (I) was able to keep us in there and give us a chance."

Hart ended his postgame interview with a smile, saying, "glad to talk to you guys after a win."

Austin Brice (1-0) struck out two over 1 1/3 scoreless innings. Boston held an opponent to three or fewer runs for the first time since a 5-3 win over Toronto on Aug. 9.



AP

Philadelphia Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto dives for the ball one way as Boston Red Sox's Alex Verdugo slides safely into home plate the other during the fifth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, at Fenway Park in Boston.

Padres 6, Rangers 3

Manny Machado hit a walk-off grand slam on a full count with one out in the 10th inning, giving the San Diego Padres a win over the Texas Rangers.

With Jurickson Profar on second to start the inning and representing the tying run, Texas reliever Rafael Montero (0-1) walked Trent Grisham and Fernando Tatis Jr. after pinch hitter Greg Garcia had bunted Profar to third.

Machado then drove his sixth career walk-off homer into the second deck in left. It was also the Padres' third grand slam, and third win, in as many days against the Rangers. Tim Hill (1-0) got the victory despite entering with runners on base in the top of the 10th and permitting the go-ahead run to score.

Astros 13, Rockies 6

Kyle Tucker tripled twice and homered among his four hits, Martin Maldonado, Carlos Correa and George Springer also homered, and Houston beat Colorado.

Correa had three hits, Tucker had four RBIs and Correa drove in three runs. Astros third baseman Alex Bregman left the game in the fourth inning after apparently injuring his right leg on a double to right.

Rays 4, Yankees 2

Mike Brosseau delivered a tie-breaking, pinch-hit single with one out in the eighth inning off Zack Britton, and surging Tampa Bay continued its success over New York.

The Rays won for the 10th time in 11 games and improved to 5-1 so far in the 10-game season series with the Yankees. Choi and Mike Zunino hit early solo homers off Gerrit Cole, who ran his unbeaten streak to 28 starts.

Mariners 6, Dodgers 4

Austin Nola homered and drove in four runs as Seattle snapped a seven-game losing streak while ending Los Angeles' seven-game winning streak.

Dylan Moore also homered, Taijuan Walker (2-2) went seven strong innings and fellow right-hander Taylor Williams struck out Corey Seager with the bases loaded in the ninth to end it as the Mariners won the opener of a five-game homestand.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 2

Randal Grichuk hit two home runs and Tanner Roark pitched five solid innings as Toronto swept its three-game series with Baltimore.

Grichuk hit home runs in the second and sixth innings to give him four in the series and six on the season, all in the past six games. He also flew out to the left field wall in the eighth inning. Grichuk's solo shot in the second inning gave Toronto a 1-0 lead and his two-run blast in the sixth gave the Blue Jays a 3-2 advantage.

Indians 6, Pirates 1

Carlos Santana hit a three-run homer for the second straight night, Domingo Santana added a three-run double, and Aaron Civale pitched a complete game five-hitter as Cleveland won at Pittsburgh.

The Indians have won a season-best five straight games. The Pirates have lost 13 of their past 15.

Cardinals 9, Cubs 3, Game 1
Cubs 4, Cardinals 2, Game 2

Matt Carpenter hit a grand slam before the first out of the game, and five St. Louis pitchers combined on a two-hitter for a win in the opener of a doubleheader at Chicago.

Tyler Webb (1-1), the third Cardinals pitcher, earned the win with 1 1/3 hitless innings.

David Bote laced the tie-breaking two-run single in the seventh inning as Chicago edged St. Louis to salvage a split of a doubleheader in Chicago.

Royals 4, Reds 0, Game 1
Reds 5, Royals 0, Game 2

Brad Keller continued his stellar start to the season, allowing three hits in 6 2/3 scoreless innings, as host Kansas City blanked Cincinnati in the first game of a doubleheader.

Trevor Bauer threw a one-hitter as Cincinnati returned the favor with a shutout after Kansas City blanked the Reds in the first game.

A's 4, Diamondbacks 1

Mark Canha's two-run home run and 6 1/3 scoreless innings from starter Jesus Luzardo helped Oakland earn a win over Arizona.

Under smoky skies from area wildfires, the A's put an end to the Diamondbacks' six-game winning streak.

Brewers 9, Twins 3

Ryan Braun, Christian Yelich and Avisail Garcia each hit two-run homers, and Brett Anderson allowed one run over six innings as Milwaukee cruised to a victory over Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Keston Hiura also homered and had three hits for the Brewers, who batted around twice in the first five innings en route to their fourth victory in five games.

Mets 5, Marlins 3

Michael Conforto smashed a two-run, tie-breaking homer in the ninth to lead New York past Miami once again, putting the Mets in position for a four-game sweep Thursday.

Miami has lost five straight games and eight of its past 10.nNew York's Jacob deGrom pitched six scoreless innings, lowering his ERA to 1.93.

White Sox 5, Tigers 3

Edwin Encarnacion smacked two solo home runs, and Jose Abreu went 2-for-4 with the go-ahead solo shot to help Chicago defeat Detroit in the major league debuts of both starting pitchers.

Neither right-hander factored into the decision, however. Chicago's Dane Dunning spaced three runs and five hits in 4 1/3 innings with one walk and seven strikeouts.

NMA

From Page 24

from other countries how they approached the situation with their respective sports activities," Tebuteb added.

In the invites to its member federations, World Athletics noted how several countries, leagues, and national governing bodies have succeeded in creating operational protocols and practices that comply with health and safety regulations, resulting to the safe return of sports-related activities at this time of the pandemic.

Tebuteb set the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association as an example on how its detailed proposal to resume training of the national team conformed with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and was allowed to return to the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville and conduct restrictive activities.

"Other sports federations, such as cycling, triathlon, and athletics have their own guidelines, but at the end of the day, it all boils down to adhering to safety rules and looking after the welfare of all those involved with the program. Thus World Athletics seminar taught us how we can work with all the stakeholders, create our plans, and make them viable at this time of the pandemic," Tebuteb said.

Meanwhile, NMA secretary general and Oceania Athletics Association president Robin Sapong said they will also share the guidelines discussed at the online forum to other local sports federations.

NMIFA

From Page 24

The appeal to utilize #soccerathome! is timely and appropriate as it caters to U10 players, who are not allowed to return to the pitch.

Under the written and visual instructions, NMIFA's #soccerathome guidelines are divided into two parts—ball feeling and coordination with the ball. Both parts cover basic skills that can be done with ease while developing young players' coordination, balance, and concentration.

For the ball feeling part, there are four involved exercise/drills, namely: tap taps; trickster; rock n' rolls; and ninja. The coordination with the ball, on the other hand, has a more advanced approach to performing drills, which include the "latte stone," skipper, cup and clap, rainbows and waterfalls, crazy 8s, and sitting "latte stone."

All the drills can be done in less than an hour, giving young children a form of physical activity that they need to remain healthy and active at this time of the pandemic. NMIFA is reminding parents or guardians of the players to provide their children proper attire (shoes and comfortable clothing) as well as enough hydration when performing the drills.

To access NMIFA's #soccerathome! videos, check https://youtu.be/40_GvOcCxws or https://youtu.be/qTt3QI0EQio. Players are also welcome to upload their #soccerathome! videos at the NMIFA Facebook account to encourage more children to stay active. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Celtics rout 76ers to take 2-0 series lead

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bayern to play PSG in Champions League final

PAGE 22

NMA ushered in return to races

LINDSAY NASH
In this 2018 file photo, elementary school students head out to the course during the Northern Marianas Athletics/Public School System All Schools Cross Country Championships at the Saipan County Club in Chalan Kiya.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Athletics attended the World Athletics' virtual meeting that aimed at helping member federations manage their way back to organizing road races.

NMA president Ray Tebuteb and Public School System Athletic Program director Nick Gross represented the CNMI in last Wednesday's online forum dubbed as "Getting Road Races Back" and how it can be achieved through coalition building, operational protocols, and compliance with national regulations.

"The seminar was definitely helpful. It guides us through the steps that we must take to gradually and more importantly, safely, resume our sports activities and in our case, the cross country events," Tebuteb said.

NMA had its track season this year shelved due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Next up for the association would be cross country and the seminar is very timely, as NMA is working with government agencies and schools in trying to hold modified races off the track with great consideration to the safety and well-being of students, coaches, and others involved in the program.

"We plan to do something for our cross-country season, but it's still a work in progress, as we have to make sure we will get the approval of our government and the schools for the safety of the community, especially our children," the NMA head said.

"With World Athletics seminar, we were able to learn

See NMA on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students sprint to the finish line during the second leg of the cross-country qualifying races at the Saipan County Club.

NMIFA promotes soccer at home

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has renewed its call to young players in our community to work on their soccer skills at home at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"NMIFA would like to continue to encourage the youth of our islands to stay active and healthy by playing #soccerathome!" NMIFA posted on its official social media account.

Also included on the post are the basic drills/exercise with instructions as well as a links to video demonstrations for better understanding and easier access. The #soccerathome! campaign was launched late March when NMIFA suspended its games at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville due to the pandemic.

All soccer-related activities were also put on hold for months before NMIFA resumed the training sessions of its national team pool last June while strictly observing safety guidelines set by local and federal authorities and the association. However, matches and other events for young players remain suspended and it looks like the halt will still be in effect in the coming months, as the CNMI continues to exercise safety precautions against the COVID-19 pandemic.

See NMIFA on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The practice pitch at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville are off limits to children so Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is encouraging young players to work on their soccer skills at home.